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THE YOUNG OÖLOGIST.

VOLUME II.

ALBION, N. Y.
FRANK H. LATTIN, PUBLISHER.
1885

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THE YOUNG OOLOGIST.

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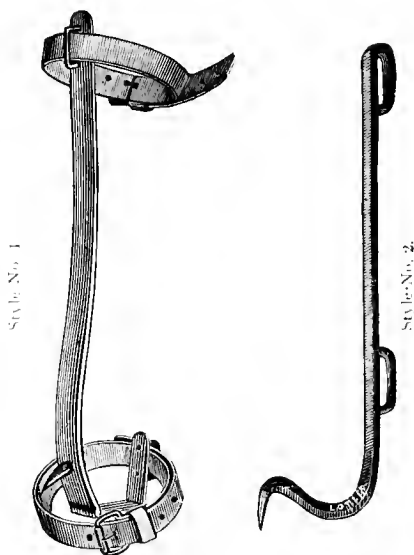
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THE YOUNG OOLOGIST.

Vol. II. No. 1.

ALBION, N. Y., MAY, 1885.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY.
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Bartram's Gardens.

Never shall I forget my first impressions on visiting these honored gardens. It was a glorious autumn afternoon, such a day as compels one to be satisfied with all the world. Embarking at Philadelphia, a fifteen minutes' ride by rail landed me at the modest station nearest my destination and a brisk walk of ten minutes brought me to the sacred ground; sacred I say advisedly, because I was confronted at the outset by a large, rude sign, which warned all persons to trespass at their peril, and something was also said about prosecution, dogs, etc. However, I disregarded such trifling things as these, and kept right on, up a lane bordered by trees such as no man would be likely to see again, over a bridge, and here I knew myself to be within the pale of the law, the clutch of the dogs, and the gates of Bartram's gardens. They are now untenanted save by some very fierce bloodhounds and a watchman. Meeting this personage I overcame his objections to my intrusion by a large amount of diplomacy and a small amount of silver.

John Bartram, the founder, was born in Darby, Penn'a, in 1699, and from a simple ploughman became, in time, one of the most distinguished of Botanists. In 1728 he bought at sheriff's sale a piece of ground on the west side of the Schuylkill, below the "Lower Ferry" on the Darby road, and began the building there in 1730, in a quaint, old-fashioned style of architecture, a house of hewn stone, which, solid and enduring in its material, has resisted the dilapidating hand of Time for over a century and a half. On a tablet on the western end of the house is this inscription: "John* Ann Bartram, 1731," (the asterisk being employed, as was the custom of that period, to designate the male member.) Forty years after he engraved with his own

hand upon the stone at the back of the house this couplet:

" 'Tis God alone, Almighty Lord,
The only one by me adored."

JOHN BARTRAM, 1779.

Both these inscriptions and the house are in a good state of preservation to this day. This is the house which, at a later period, sheltered Alexander Wilson, the Father of American Ornithology, during which time William Bartram, son of John, was its owner. The gardens in the midst of which the house was erected are seven acres in extent, and slope to the bank of the river, and became one of the most attractive places in the neighborhood of the city. Trees from every clime were planted, the rarest exotics and flowers from the four quarters of the world were here gathered as subjects for study and ornamentation. Here it was, in his study or under some wide-spreading tree, that Bartram wrote the first books of travels ever published by an American. These gardens have had a very important bearing upon American Ornithology, for it was here that Bartram first met Wilson, and directed the poor schoolmaster's inherent love of Nature into that channel in which he afterwards acquired such well-deserved fame. Here Wilson spent much of his time, and from here he gave to the world his delightful sketches of our birds and descriptions of his journeyings. He makes frequent allusions in his life work to this spot, and to his venerable friend, Mr. Bartram. No admirer of Wilson can remain insensible to the charm pervading this retired park, a charm born of association with him and his works. A short distance from these gardens stood Wilson's schoolhouse (a cut of which Coles presents in his *New Key*), but alas! the relentless march of progress and industry has long ago removed this humble monument to the poet naturalist.

I cannot describe the feelings that welled up into my throat and nearly caused the unbidden tear to come, as I recalled much that I had read of the struggles of poor Wilson, with what courage and persistency he pursued his studies of birds amidst the most disheartening circumstances. I thought of how he had enjoyed the shelter of this primitive house, the shade of these very trees. How his eye must have delighted in the beautiful landscape, following the lazy Schuylkill on its road to the broad Delaware. What splendid facilities must have been afforded his mind and directed his pen in the accomplishment of his great work by this veritable Acadia, God's garden spot. Numberless species of trees and flowers flourished here, and to this day, although the place has received no gardener's attention for many years, are found evidences of its botanical wealth. For four hours I wandered about, drinking in everything, and associating with every object the writings and experiences of Wilson. The place has changed sadly of late, the property having changed owners several times, until in 1850, Mr. Eastwick, an American gentleman who had acquired a vast fortune by Russian contracts, purchased it and erected just to the west of the Bartram house, and within 200 feet of it, a magnificent castle of treacherous and perishable sandstone. A succession of terraces beautify the slope running from the house down a gentle incline for a considerable distance, until washed by the waters of an artificial lake, two large couchant lions of cast bronze guard the head of the stone stairways leading from the top terrace down, on both sides. Fine trees were planted, conservatories were established and labyrinths of imported grape vines, now uncared for and occupying a position to the west and just in front of the house, attest to its master's love of this culture—everything betokens the most lavish outlay. This castle is now unoccupied, as is the Bartram house, except by the watchman's family, and is rapidly falling to pieces; in fact everything is in a state of wanton neglect and semi-decay. How

strange that this noble pile, whose lofty tower frowned down, as if in derision, on its humbler neighbor, the Bartram house, should be the first to crumble to dust, while the older house is as firm and intact, apparently, as the day it was built. Here every season innumerable birds build their nests and lay their eggs, rearing their young unmolested, owing to watchful and ever faithful human and brute attendants. Lucky indeed is the collector whose cabinet contains a nest and eggs taken from within the precincts of this historic enclosure. It will not be long before the entire place is leveled and graded to be made into building lots and cobbled thoroughfares, the increasing population and the city's rapid growth westward demanding it. A movement was on foot some time since among Bartram's descendants to purchase and retain the place, but I believe it never assumed definite proportions. The indications are that the city will run streets through within a year.

I have numbered among my friends for many years a lineal descendant of John Bartram, and to her I am indebted for many reminiscences and much that I know concerning the place. Through the kindness of a grandson of the late Mr. Eastwick I enjoy the privilege of an abundant entrance to these gardens whenever I make an occasional pilgrimage to the spot.

The people of Philadelphia generally have no conception of the veneration in which this place is held all over the world, a veneration which increases as the world grows older. It is really the birthplace of American Botany and American Ornithology, and all lovers of Alexander Wilson will regret its destruction.

HARRY G. PARKER,
Chester, Pa.

— ♦♦♦ —
Notes from Kansas.

Prof. L.—For several years' personal observation, I have not yet seen a Shrike during the summer months. Many thanks for correcting error. Nest found by me was that of the Shore Lark, found on March 25, 1884. In looking over the list of large sets, I found a set of Cat-bird, six eggs, also a set of Purple Martin, with six eggs. G. F. B., Beattie, Kan.

South Carolina Notes.

The following notes were made during a two months collecting trip, at St. Helena Islands, and the neighborhood of the "hunting islands," near Port Royal Sound, in Beaufort Co., S. C., where I arrived on the 4th of March, after a rather boisterous ocean voyage of four days from New York, but felt amply repaid for the various inconveniences of the trip, by finding a locality fairly teeming with bird life.

My stay was, of course, not extended enough to take in *all* the birds which visit the locality, but if the readers of the *YOUNG OOLOGIST* take as much pleasure in reading the notes, as I did while making them, I shall feel fully excused for their incompleteness.

As there were no boats to be obtained suitable to my purpose of pursuing the water birds, I built me a little scow, nine feet long, and three feet wide amidship, and I found it to be just the thing required for exploring the winding creeks. I could also draw it over the flats and bogs easily, and it proved to be quite seaworthy. I filled the seams and covered the bottom with pitch, making it tight as a cup, and in it I passed some of the pleasantest hours of my life, accompanied only by my trusty 16-bore double barreled breech loader, but I find I am wandering from the subject of this article, so will turn to it at once.

The numbers at the right are the Ridgway Catalogue numbers.

1 Hermit Thrush, 56; a single specimen taken on Bay Point, Id.

2 Robin, 7, common in cultivated districts.

3 Mockingbird, 11; exceedingly abundant, showing scarcely any fear of man.

4 Catbird, 12; common, but usually kept themselves well concealed in the thickets.

5 Brown Thrush, 13; not common, and very shy.

6 Eastern Bluebird, 22; abundant, habits the same as at the north.

7 Blue Gray Gnatcatcher, 27; abundant. They were mating by the middle of April, and the males were paying every attention

to the females. I found them both in the dense thickets and the open woods.

8 Ruby-crowned Knight, 30; a single specimen was shot by my "host," Mr. Cuthbert, and given to me for preservation.

9 Tufted Titmouse, 36; common, but difficult to observe, owing to a knack they had of keeping themselves concealed from view. They had a note almost exactly like the alarm note of the Cardinal Grosbeak.

10 Carolina Chickadee, 42; abundant, exactly filling the place in the avi-fauna of this locality, that the Black-capped fills north.

11 Brown-headed Nuthatch, 53; abundant, found on the tall pines, in the forests and swamps.

12 Carolina Wren, 60; abundant, frequenting the sides of creeks and swamps, and each morning treating the listener with one of the most beautiful of bird songs, very tame, one actually came into my room, and I caught him, and after a thorough examination gave him his liberty.

13. House Wren, 63; not very common, a few seen.

14 Long-billed Marsh Wren, 67; common in the marshes.

15 American Titlark, 71; apparently quite a common migrant, I shot one to make sure of identification.

16 Blue Yellow-backed Warbler, 88; common migrant, habits the same as at the north.

17 Yellow-rumped Warbler, 95; common migrant.

18 White-browed Warbler, 103a; common. I noticed this bird at once, on hearing the curious "chip," and shot, and carefully identified it. Found on the tallest pines, in rather open woods.

19 Pine Warbler, 111; common, found in same localities with the preceding.

20 Loggerhead Shrike, 149; abundant resident, most always found in pairs near the edges of the cotton fields, and about the hedges and thickets in the more open fields.

21 Cedar Waxwing, 181; a few specimens seen, but not common during my stay in the locality.

22 Rough-winged Swallow, 158; common, found in the vicinity of ponds and near the marshes.

23 Summer Redbird, 164; abundant. I first noticed the curious note, being on the edge of a swamp, in the deep woods. Keeping a sharp lookout, I soon saw a flash of red through the leaves, instantly I threw my gun to my shoulder and fired, and felt well rewarded for the rapid plunge I made through the knee-deep water, as I held the beautiful bird in my hand, and plugged his throat and nostrils with cotton. This was an adult male in full spring plumage.

After I "caught on" to the note, I soon took several more, showing many stages of plumage, some being no more than half through the moult.

24 Savannah Sparrow, 193a; common on my arrival, but the bulk of them soon passed North.

25 Grass Finch, 197; same at the last but not so numerous.

26 Seaside Finch, 202; common in the salt marshes. I took my specimen by poling my scow through the sedge in the shoal water, until the bird was flushed, then quickly grabbed the gun and brought down the bird. They kept themselves well concealed, and would not fly unless forced to do so.

27 White-throated Sparrow, 209; quite a common migrant.

28 Florida Towhee, 237a; apparently quite common. I shot a specimen to make sure of identification.

29 Cardinal Grosbeak, 242; exceedingly abundant resident, found in every thicket but hard to obtain, owing to their shyness, and the surprising way in which they can conceal their brilliant plumage in even a small tuft of leaves, keeping out of sight so completely, that a careful observer would not notice them, were it not for the betraying whistle.

30 Painted Bunting, Nonpareil, 251; quite common in the latter part of April, and easily seen, as the brilliant and many colored plumage stands out in bold contrast against the green leaves.

31 Red-winged Blackbird, 261; common,

but most all were in the "young of the year" plumage.

32 Meadow Lark, 263; exceedingly abundant, Found in all the fields in large flocks.

33 Orchard Oriole, 270; not very common. One specimen taken.

34 Boat-tailed Grackle, 277; exceedingly abundant resident, haunting the fields and marshes in large flocks. They had just begun laying in good numbers when I left for the north, building in communities in the old overgrown plantation burying grounds.

35 Common Crow, 282; a few seen, but far outnumbered by the succeeding species.

36 Fish Crow, 283; exceedingly abundant during my stay, and the first birds noticed on our arrival at Port Royal, where several were seen pursuing their piscatorial avocations within a few rods of the steamer.

37 Blue Jay, 289; Common in the pine woods where several fell victims to their own curiosity, which would almost always lead them within gunshot, providing the collector remained concealed and perfectly quiet. They had a note, entirely different from any I ever heard north, and I could not believe it was the utterance of a Jay, until I observed very closely and was satisfied as to its origin.

38 Ruby-throated Hummingbird, 325; a single specimen was shot by Mr. Cuthbert.

39 Chuck Wills Widow, 353; a specimen of this bird was flushed from her nest by one of the party and shot. The nest contained two eggs, one of which he broke, making the set worthless in my estimation. The eggs resemble those of the Whip-poor-will, being of course somewhat larger.

40 Hairy Woodpecker, 360; Quite common in the pine woods.

41 Downy Woodpecker, 361; Common during my stay.

42 Yellow-bellied Woodpecker, 369; a few specimens seen.

43 Pileated Woodpecker, 371; quite common in the deepest woods, and on the

hunting islands, but everywhere extremely wild and wary.

44 Red-bellied Woodpecker, 372, common. The notes of this bird strongly resemble those of the Red-headed variety.

45 Yellow-shafted Flicker, 378, common in the large woods.

46 Pigeon Hawk, 416, a fine male was taken, in the adult plumage, which I made into a skin for my museum.

47 Sparrow Hawk, 420; quite common, one fine adult specimen taken.

48 Swallow-tailed Kite, 426, a beautiful specimen of this bird passed over my head, just too high to shoot, but I recognized the species at once from seeing Wilson's plate of this Kite. All the chief points could be so plainly seen as to render mistake in the identification impossible.

49 Red-shouldered Hawk, 439, quite common in the heavily timbered districts.

50 Bald Eagle, 451; common resident. Two nests could be seen across the marshes on the hunting islands from our boarding place, and the birds were in sight the greater portion of the time. I chased a fine, White headed bird of this species for about half a day about the island, but he seemed to know the exact distance a gun would carry, and I finally gave up the chase by giving him a full broadside at about sixty yards range, and then watched him until he disappeared from view, evidently more scared than hurt.

51 Turkey Buzzard, 454, exceedingly abundant, and very tame. They may be seen sitting in rows on the house roofs, and in every direction sailing over the fields, marshes and woods. They breed in almost impenetrable jungles of the "Spanish bayonet," the spines of which are a very serious obstacle to be overcome by the collector. The eggs are laid in a hollow on the ground among the grass and leaves.

52 Black Vulture, 455, exceedingly abundant, but the bulk of these birds evidently spend the colder part of the season either in the interior or further south, for on my arrival they were comparatively scarce, but as the weather grew warmer they increased in number until equally as

common as the Buzzards. I secured a fine set of their eggs, collected by Mr. Cuthbert on Buzzard Island, about fifteen miles north of where I was stopping. It was very amusing to watch a crowd of the birds gather about the refuse thrown out at the back door. They would come from all directions, as if by magic, and squabble for the morsels among themselves, the Turkey Buzzards standing no show whatever, as they had to give way, and remained at a safe distance until the meal was finished. Whether this is invariably the case I cannot state as in the instance mentioned the Black Vultures were in a large majority.

53 Mourning Dove, 460, Exceedingly abundant resident, evenly scattered, and nowhere found in large flocks.

54 Ground Dove; exceedingly abundant resident, breeding in the hedges and clumps of bushes in the fields. These beautiful little birds were found in the edges of the cotton and corn fields, near hedges or bushes, into which they plunged when alarmed, but if the collector secreted himself or walked to another part of the field they would come out of their retreat and feed along on the ground, those in the rear of the flock flying over the others and alighting a short distance in advance, much as the Crow Blackbirds do at home. Many are the luckless Ground Doves that fell before my gun, and as they were rapid flyers, quick darters and shy, I made a specialty of pursuing them for a time. I have in mind one flock of about twenty-five individuals I found in an old cotton field, near a swampy fringe of bushes into which they scurried on my appearance. I concluded to spend the afternoon in exterminating the flock. Just at dusk that evening the writer of these lines might have been seen, slowly wending his way back to the old plantation house, cartridges all empty, and about fagged out, but carrying a nice string of eighteen Ground Doves, with throats carefully plugged with cotton, ready for the next days skinning.

55 American Quail, 480; exceedingly abundant resident. Found in nearly every

field. Habits the same as at the north but not nearly so wild, and always called "Partridge" by the natives.

56 Great Blue Heron, 487; abundant resident, rather shy and difficult to obtain. There was, however, a colored man on the plantation named Penitentiary William, from the fact that he had once stolen a cow and atoned for the offence by a sojourn in the penitentiary, who informed us that he could obtain specimens of this bird, and sure enough, after being induced to try, he appeared one day with five of the largest birds of this species I ever saw. He said he sneaked within gunshot of one and killed it, and then braced it up with sticks and decoyed the others within easy range.

57 American Egret, 489; common, but rather shy.

58 Snowy Heron, 490; abundant summer resident. Breeds in colonies in swamps. These birds were quite shy and not easily approached except in their breeding places, but I made some decoys and found that they could be easily shot by stooling. When the flats were left bare by the tide the Herons would gather on them to feed and would remain until driven off as the tide rose again. All that was necessary was to place my decoys on some muddy point near the water, pull my scow into the tall sedge out of sight, and remain perfectly still. I have spent hours in the little scow watching through the sedge these beautiful birds as they stood among the decoys, unconscious of the hidden danger so near them, and I had fine opportunities for watching their movements and positions in life. I remember an instance when three of them circled about and landed among the decoys, which were such good imitations of the real birds that one of the Herons came up to one and put its beak against its head, as I supposed to see if it was alive. The next moment they were startled to see me sitting erect in front of them about thirty yards distant. Instantly on my arising, with their usual agility they sprang into the air and tried to escape, but in this instance none of the three were destined to do so. I fired the

first barrel at two as they "crossed" in their flight and killed them both, and was lucky enough to secure the other one with the remaining barrel. Another incident and I am done with this species: I backed my scow within long range of one of these Herons, and when he flew I fired, just tipping one of his wings and caught him alive and kept him for three or four days. He became quite tame, although I could not induce him to eat a morsel, and he would expand and raise his beautiful plumes in a way that I have never seen equalled in the taxidermists' art.

59 Louisiana Heron, 492; common summer resident, associating with the Snowy Herons, arriving at the same time and breeding in the same localities but not nearly as numerous.

60 Little Blue Heron, 493; not as common as the preceding. The only specimen I saw was one shot by a colored man in the marsh near the house. It was a male in full summer dress.

61 Green Heron, 494; common summer resident, with apparently the same habits as at the north. I found them breeding in companies, in the same place with the Boat-tailed Grackles.

62 American Bittern, 497; A beautiful adult male of this species was shot by Mr. Cuthbert, and was the only specimen I saw. The skin now reposes in my museum.

63 Least Bittern, 498; evidently not common. I saw a single individual in a swamp.

44 American Oystercatcher, 507; not common and extremely shy.

65 Black-bellied Plover, 513; abundant about the creeks and mud flats. I shot a number over decoys.

66 Killdeer, 516; I found them common on my arrival, but the continuous gunning drove them from the neighborhood.

67 Semipalmated Plover, 517, abundant migrants, fairly swarming on the mud flats. I also shot them on the border of small fresh water ponds on the island.

68 Piping Plover, 520; common on the ocean beach, but rarely seen on the mud flats. I believe they prefer a clean sandy beach to any other.

69 Wilson's Plover, 522; found in limited numbers on the ocean beach. I took several fine specimens, and noticed that when a pair was found and I shot one, the other would usually fly about in the vicinity of the dead one until shot.

70 Wilson's Snipe, 526a; abundant winter resident. These birds afforded excellent shooting. Found in the marshy places all over the island.

71 Robin Snipe, 529; abundant in the salt marshes and among the flats. They did not appear to have any fear of a small boat and I made more than one deadly shot at them while rowing about in my scow as they flew past me.

72 Least Sandpiper, 538; abundant among the mud flats and also found about the fresh water ponds on the island.

73 Red-backed Sandpiper, 539a; exceedingly abundant both on the mud flats and the ocean beach.

74 Semipalmated Sandpiper, 541, abundant. Found in company with the preceding species, and seen in large flocks.

76 Marbled Godwit, 543; not very common. I secured a fine specimen, which was shot on the mud flats in the salt marsh.

77 Greater Yellowlegs, 548; abundant about the creeks and flats, and much tamer than at the north. I frequently sculled my scow near enough to shoot them.

78 Lesser Yellowlegs, 540; quite common on the flats.

79 Willet, 552; exceedingly abundant and not wild, coming to decoys readily, and often flying near enough to shoot from the scow.

80 Field Plover, 555; the only specimen I saw was shot in the fields back of the house. The skin is now in my museum.

81 Spotted Sandpiper, 557; abundant. Found about all the creeks and ponds.

82 Long billed Curlew, 558; common on the marshes, but kept themselves well out of gunshot.

83 Hudsonian Curlew, 559; abundant about the mud flats, but well acquainted with the carrying distance of a gun. Large numbers of these birds flew to some point further inland to feed every morning, and

just at dusk large flocks could be seen flying in a straight line for their roosting place which, I was informed, was "Egg Bank," a small sandy island in St. Helena Sound, and in which direction the birds were flying.

84 Red-breasted Rail, 569; a beautiful specimen of this fine bird was shot by Mr. Cuthbert and presented to me for preservation, the first and only one I ever saw. On dissecting I found a small snake in the bird's stomach.

85 Clapper Rail, 571; exceedingly abundant in the marshes and easily obtained at high tide, being driven to the bunches of floating herbage by the water, and shot from boats.

86 American Coot, 580; I saw one specimen of this species fly across Station Creek in front of my scow, but was unable to obtain it.

87 Mallard, 601; abundant in the ponds and lagoons on the Hunting Islands.

88 Scaup Duck, 614; abundant in Port Royal Sound and all the larger creeks and inlets.

89 Bufflehead, 621; not uncommon in Station Creek.

90 Redbreasted Sheldrake, 637; common in Port Royal Sound and the larger creeks; rather shy.

91 Brown Pelican, 641; I saw one individual of this species slowly flying across Port Royal Sound.

92 Florida Cormorant, 643a; common about the larger bodies of water.

93 Black Skimmer, 656; exceedingly abundant on the outside flats, making excursions up Port Royal Sound and the larger creeks and inlets in search of food. I never tired of watching these birds as they flew about with the tips of their bills skimming through the water, and they always seemed to me to have a decidedly stupid appearance. I once sculled my scow up to a flat, left bare by the tide, about a mile out in the ocean, where a large flock of these birds had congregated. There was also a small flock of Royal Terns sitting on the flat a short distance from the Skimmers. By very careful maneuver-

ing and lying flat on my back in the bottom of the scow I succeeded in getting as close as I wished, and suddenly raised up with both barrels of my gun at full cock. The birds started up with a loud roar and I poured one barrel into the thickly packed ranks of the Skimmers, and the other into the Terns. The result was seven Black Skimmers killed and wounded, and three Royal Terns, which I thought good considering the size of the gun, but I had to skip around lively to get all of the birds, as some were only wing-broken.

94 American Herring Gull, 666*a*; common about the larger bodies of water.

95 Ring-billed Gull, 668; common in Port Royal Sound.

96 Laughing Gull, 673; common in Port Royal Sound. I secured several by throwing overboard a dead Tern or Gull, when they would hover over me near enough to shoot.

97 Bonaparte's Gull, 675; abundant in Port Royal Sound and along the ocean beach. Easily drawn within gunshot in the same manner as the last mentioned species.

Royal Tern, 681; abundant in Port Royal Sound and along the outside flats, sometimes going up the creeks in search of food. I shot one specimen flying down a small creek, within a few rods of the house.

99 Cabot's Tern, 683; not uncommon along the outside flats off Port Royal Entrance. I shot a beautiful specimen in Port Royal Sound near the mouth of Station Creek. The skin is now in my museum.

100 Forsters Tern, 685; abundant in the creeks, inlets and along the ocean beach. I have thrown overboard one dead bird of this species when I saw a flock passing, and as soon as they came within gunshot, commenced firing and kept it up until my gun barrels were so hot I could not bear my hand on it to take out the empty shells and until the water around the scow was nearly covered with the dead and crippled birds.

101 Common Tern, 686; a few speci-

mens taken, in company with the preceding species.

102 Least Tern, 690; becoming common just as I left. Frequenting the creeks and marshes. The day before leaving I made the last sally in my scow and fell in with a flock of these birds, twenty of which I secured before I gave up the chase.

103 Horned Grebe, 732; Common in Port Royal Sound and the larger creeks and inlets, but all in the winter plumage.

The reader will further pardon the writer for the incompleteness of the above notes when I state that some of my time was occupied in skinning over thirteen hundred specimens.

W. W. WORTHINGTON,
Shelter Island, N. Y.

Scientific Names.

The "Collector from Massachusetts," quoted in the February number of *THE YOUNG OÖLOGIST*, did, as the editor affirmed, but echo the thoughts of the majority of young students of Ornithology when he asked if a beginner must learn all the different names which have been given to each species of our birds, and when he pleaded for a standard system of nomenclature, so that there might be but one scientific name to be learned.

It will, doubtless, be gratifying to the "Collector from Massachusetts" and all others of my brother amateurs who are interested, to learn that such a standard is now being prepared, and may possibly be issued during the present year.

At the first congress of the American Ornithologists' Union, held in New York in September, 1883, a committee was appointed to make "A Revision of the Classification and Nomenclature of North American Birds." The present writer had the honor of moving that resolution, and the gentlemen appointed to take charge of this important duty were Mr. J. A. Allen, Dr. Cones, Mr. Ridgway, Mr. H. W. Henshaw and Mr. William Brewster.

At the second congress of the A. O. U., held also in New York, this committee presented a preliminary report, an abstract of

which appeared in *The Auk* for October, 1884. Dr. Cones, the chairman of the subcommittee to whom was assigned the codification of the rules by which the committee had been governed in their determinations of nomenclature, occupied over an hour in reading the report of this branch of the work. This report, which was prepared by Dr. Cones, and which is one of the most masterly efforts of that distinguished and brilliant scholar, will be published together with the new system of classification and nomenclature, just as soon as some few unfinished details are completed; and we shall then have a "standard" work which *all* American students will unquestionably avail themselves of.

With the hope that I will be excused for offering an opinion contrary to that given by the editor, I will venture to suggest that it is not quite correct to call the system of nomenclature prepared by Mr. Ridgway for the Smithsonian Institute the "standard" for America. The author would doubtless disclaim such an assumption. As a matter of fact, a large number of the leading ornithologists use the system prepared by Dr. Cones, and some use systems of their own.

It may be retorted, by some who remember it, that the writer has advocated the adoption of Mr. Ridgway's system in preference to that of Dr. Cones. He would give the same advice still; but it is not because he ever considered Mr. Ridgway's as the standard, or that he presumed to judge of the relative merits of the two. He advocated an adherence to the Smithsonian list because it had been longer in use, and had thus become the more generally adopted, especially by amateurs and collectors, and because the adherence to *one* system would prevent the confusion consequent upon the use of the two.

To the relief of all interested in the matter, this confusion will soon be at an end, and no persons are more zealous for its termination, nor are any working more energetically for the completion and establishment of the new system than are the two

authors whose systems will be thus superseded.

It was the writer's privilege to be honored with an invitation to be present at a meeting of this committee of revision, and to take part in its deliberations, and he testifies with a great deal of pleasure to the uniform harmony which prevailed, to the frankness with which numerous delicate questions were discussed, and to the frequent manifestations of a very evident desire to adopt only that which was the most correct and the best, quite independent of any personal consideration.

But young students need not be so much frightened at these repulsive looking scientific names, as many appear to be. There is no necessity of beginning the study of ornithology by loading your memory with these words. As the writer has said elsewhere, "It seems advisable to teach young beginners that these scientific names, and indeed all technical phrases, are simply conveniences and nothing more; that these words which are to many so repulsive in appearance and so difficult to master, are not, as some laymen seem to consider, the most important part of science; their's is a very subordinate part, and they can be advantageously passed over by young ornithologists until they have advanced so far in their studies that the need of these technicalities as conveniences will impart to them an interest and remove their apparent repulsiveness."

MONTAGUE CHAMBERLAIN,
St. John, N. B.

— ♦ ♦ —
Submersion of Swallows.

In looking over some old papers I found the following. It is from the *Hudson Bee* of August 4, 1892: "The submersion of Swallows, respecting which many contrary opinions prevail, was observed to take place last evening at the south end of Greenwich Street. This interesting fact in natural history was witnessed by many people. The flight of the Swallows appeared to commence about 5:30 P. M. and continued till after sunset." C. H.,

New London, Ct.

Nesting of the Great Horned Owl

It has been my good fortune, since commencing to collect eggs, to find several nests of this bird, and a description of some of them may be of interest to others. The first one I ever saw was in what had been the nest of a Red-tailed Hawk the year previous. I had found it when the hawks were feeding their young, and noted it down for a visit about the first of April of the following year: so one day three of us started out, hoping to find some eggs to add to our collections. Our astonishment was considerable, when, in response to our raps on the tree, a *Bubo* flew off. We were all quite young and not familiar with the time when the owls should have eggs, or we would never have ventured to climb such a tree. It was a Tulip Poplar about four feet in diameter, and over sixty feet to the first limb, and nearly forty from there to the nest: ninety-seven feet to the nest, as we afterwards found. I had generally been the climber of the party, so strapped on our old pair of "irons" and started. At fourteen years of age such an undertaking was not a light one, and although I felt brave at the outset, before I had gone two-thirds of the distance to the first limb, my heart failed me, and notwithstanding the assurance of my companions that the worst had been passed, I turned back and felt better when I again found ground. Once on ground I was ready to urge some one else to make the attempt, assuring F., who was three years my senior, that his extra length of arms would make it an easy task. He finally consented, and after a tough struggle reached the nest, and to our great disappointment called down that it contained two young owls, and half a rabbit, which was to serve as dinner for the family. Without a question as to the result, F. tumbled the contents overboard, one at a time. No. 1 fared badly, only surviving a few minutes, but No. 2 seemed to think 100 feet drop was not much worth minding, and in a few minutes was quite lively, and would almost twist his head off in his

endeavors to watch one of us as we moved around him. We gave him a large slat box for his home, and had great amusement through the summer feeding him; after he was able to fly he would occasionally get out, but generally returned: his sight was good in bright daylight, and on the approach of any one he backed up in a corner and cracked his bill vigorously. A cat or dog seemed to excite him particularly, and he would hop up and down, raise his feathers and even jump against the slats in his endeavors to reach them. He was finally shot in the following winter by a neighbor, who thought he was after chickens, but we found him much reduced in flesh, as he had been absent from home some time before his death, and apparently was unable to care for himself.

This same nest was occupied the two succeeding years by a pair of Great Horned Owls, although during the first of these years one of the old birds was shot off the nest. Ten years after my first attempt at climbing this tree I again found it occupied by Great Horned Owls, of the eight years not recorded I do not know whether or not it was occupied, as I did not have the opportunity to visit it. This time I had more years on my back and considerable experience in climbing. I provided myself with a good long strap, and by passing it around myself and the tree, I had no difficulty in reaching the first limb, where I left my strap and proceeded. This time I found two quite fresh eggs, and felt well repaid. This method of climbing we had often discussed when boys, but for some reason never tried. I found it a great benefit, as I was able to drop back in the strap at any time, and feel perfectly secure. It works admirably when there are few or no limbs, when they are present it is often a matter of difficulty to get the strap unfastened and over the limb. To give the best results, the strap should be wide, very strong, and have a buckle with numerous holes to shorten up when the tree gets smaller.

Of several other nests I have found No. 1 was ninety feet from the ground, in a

large chestnut tree, the nest made of sticks, and contained, March 6th, two eggs, both of which had been picked by the chick, and would have hatched in a few hours.

No. 2 was in a black birch not more than forty feet high, in an old crows nest, and contained two eggs.

No. 3 was in same nest as No. 2, and contained three eggs.

No. 4 was under fifty feet high in a decayed chestnut tree, the cavity was on the side of the tree and so small, that the tail of the owl projected out, and to this fact I am indebted for the find. The old bird flew off at my approach, and not having my climbing irons, I returned with them the next day to find the owl had not again been on the nest and as it was freezing weather, both eggs were frozen and cracked.

No. 5 was in a Maple tree sixty feet high, old crows nest, and could easily be climbed without "Irons," as could Nos. 2 and 3. No. 5 contained 3 eggs.

No. 6 was in a dead snag, the top having blown off, leaving an uncovered cavity, a snow storm two days before my visit had piled in around the owl to the height of eight or ten inches, leaving barely room at the bottom for the eggs to rest on the decayed wood, some ice and snow actually being in contact with one of the two eggs.

To sum up, the eight nests noted: Six contained two eggs each; two contained three eggs each; two were in cavities; six were in outside nests; three were easy of access without irons; three were over ninety feet high.

I have frequently found the crows a great help in hunting out these birds, a flock of them will often follow and pester an Owl for hours at a time, their continued "caws" serving to locate the common prey.

"ORTHIN."

Kennett Square, Pa.

Ready-made Burrows for the Bank Swallow; A Large Owl.

I do not have time to collect eggs or watch birds, but have always, from a boy, been a bird fancier, so I take THE YOUNG OÖLOGIST for the bird information it con-

tains, and find it a very interesting journal. Am pleased to hear of its prospective enlargement.

The perusal of Mr. Curtis' article on Bank Swallows recalled to my mind a colony of these birds I observed while living in Virginia a few years ago. Several miles south of Richmond, on the James river, is situated the historical Drury's Bluff. During the war, while the troops were cannonading the enemy located on the bank above, this perpendicular bluff was closely perforated with erratic cannon balls, thus forming ready-made habitations for these bird burrowers, which myriads of them were not slow in making available. I have never, before nor since, seen so many birds together, the atmosphere over the river and its banks was literally black with them.

I caught a very large and peculiar looking owl in the Chickahominy Swamp, Virginia, once, or perhaps I had better say the owl caught me. A friend and myself were hunting "coons" one night, and walking by a deserted cabin I was almost felled to the ground by a sudden blow on the back of the head (and perhaps two-thirds fright) as that was the first intimation I had of the presence of a third party. We succeeded, however, in capturing it and I kept it in the basement of a mill for several weeks, after which time I removed a pane of glass from a window and gave it free access. It remained several months, going out nights and raiding hen roosts, as I ascertained later when a "darkey" brought me the "last remains of his misspent life" riddled with buckshot. This was the largest owl I ever saw. Long feathers grew from the throat, very much resembling a beard. Its queer antics and beard reminded me of an ape very much indeed. Its head and breast were of a light yellow; I think the rest was brown. Can you, from this poor description, name it?

I have contemplated writing you for a long time, to manifest my appreciation of THE YOUNG OÖLOGIST. I do not write this for publication, yet if you think it will be interesting to your readers you may do so, or portions of it.

I am yours truly,

G. D. F., Rhinebeck, N. Y.

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JOTTINGS.

SPECIAL NOTICE.—We have moved our mail business to Albion, N. Y., 3 miles from Gaines, and henceforth all communications should be addressed us at that place.

Vol. I complete, of THE YOUNG OOLOGIST can be furnished during the month of May for 60 cents. Back numbers 6 cents each; five or more, 5 cents each. Vol. I after June 1st will cost 75 cents. We have only a few hundred sets left. Order at once or you may be too late.

Subscribers finding a notice in this issue informing them that this is the last number of the Y. O. their due, will please renew at once. We cannot afford to lose a single subscriber. We will send the Y. O. as long as you have paid for it and no longer, and should you receive an extra number occasionally do not return it but hand it to some bird-loving friend.

Our new catalogue of Minerals, Shells, Naturalists' Supplies, etc., will be sent to every subscriber of THE YOUNG OOLOGIST as soon as issued.

TO ANY PUBLISHER giving our little monthly a notice, favorable or otherwise, and sending us a marked copy of the same, we will send them THE YOUNG OOLOGIST one year. We know the value of printer's ink and trust our brother publishers will give us a liberal sprinkling of the same. We will endeavor to reciprocate the favor by giving them lots of notes on birds, their nests and eggs during the ensuing twelve months. Amateurs accepting the above offer will please enclose 25 cents extra.

Knowing that our readers would much rather have THE YOUNG OOLOGIST twelve months without a colored cover than one-half that time with one we start Vol. II coverless. In this form it will be just as valuable to them, containing just as much interesting matter, be just as convenient, if not more, for the binder, and last, but not least, save us several hundred dollars. Vol. I cost us many dollars more than we received for the same, besides donating our work gratuitously. We cannot afford to publish Vol. II unless it pays at least our printers' bills. If subscriptions continue to pour in at present rate we feel assured that our friends will see us through.

Our Premium List in a Nut Shell.

For every *new* subscriber, one of our present subscribers may send us, at \$1.00 per year, we will give thirty-five cents worth of anything we advertise, or offer for sale in THE YOUNG OOLOGIST, our Catalogue, or any circular we may send out. We trust our friends will obtain for us as many new subscribers as possible. We consider our premium list one of the largest and most varied ever sent out by any publisher in America. Parties desiring to obtain a costly premium can send in their names, as fast as obtained, and we will give them a check good for 35 cents, in trade, when the required number of checks are obtained they may be sent to us and we will send the premium desired. Parties preferring cash in place of the above will be entitled 25 cents on each subscription.

Knights of Audubon

All communications relating to this department should be addressed to Mr. JOSE R. CURTIS, Painted Post, Steuben County, N. Y.

SALUTATORY.

PAINTED POST, March 10, 1885

To the Collectors of America:

GENTLEMEN—Shall the "Knights of Audubon" be a permanent and successful association? Your unanimous reply is "Yes." But your affirmative answer is not only required, but the more indicative actions and efforts of every interested ornithologist and oologist in America, which combined with the admirable magazine our official organ, and the never-failing changes of nature, should propel the "Knights of Audubon" to the highest pinnacle of success.

The diligence and faithfulness of every officer and the authentic and reliable reports of every member are also necessary. Let the reports especially be correct in each particular. You are all well aware of the fact that a great number of persons, in writing an account of a collecting tour or slight adventure met with while on an oological expedition, will fill out and expand the narration with high-sounding phrases, numerous quotations and unessential epithets, which, when thoroughly sifted, will usually produce, in about one-fourth of the language used, a few solid and interesting facts. The former, if sent in by many members, would require page after page of unnecessary manuscript, as well as the tiresome labor of inspection. Now, let your monthly reports be the *spice* of the writings of the several members of your Legion, not to exceed three pages of single sheet note paper, written on one side only. These will be expected.

Communications have been received from various ones who state that "It is almost impossible to form a Legion here, as I am the only one interested in birds, their nests and eggs, in this place," and other similar remarks. Do not give up so easily. If there is no one whom you know is interested, the next thing to do is to *interest*

some of your friends. Call a meeting of a few of them, tell them of the organization of the "Knights of Audubon," and its purpose, read the constitution and remarks in the March number; tell them of the advantages of such a society, sandwiching in a few appropriate remarks, and before you will have finished your discourse nine out of ten of your listeners will consent to join. Then appoint a subject for discussion at next meeting, draw up your by laws, and send the report to the Chief Secretary and receive the certificates of membership.

Also let your meetings be conducted in proper shape, as becoming a regular assembly, and not the mere gathering together of a few for the express purpose of having fun. They may not be especially formal, but with sufficient dignity and appropriateness, and with proper enactment of the regulations governing your gatherings.

In the department devoted to the "Knights of Audubon" there will be a query column, open to all who have questions to ask the Secretary, or otherwise, but entirely devoted to our organization. We will be happy to hear from you, one and all, in regard to any inquiry which puzzles you, and we will try to enlighten your mind in that direction.

Also a correspondence column, to contain the letters and notes from various ones containing items of interest to the society, which is open to correspondents.

Now, collectors, we leave the question to you, and upon your endeavors depends the future of the society, and with you rests the prosperity and success of the "Knights of Audubon."

Let the next report show an increase in the number of both Legions and members, not a decrease.

Yours fraternally,

JOSE R. CURTIS,
Chief Sec'y.

CHIEF SECRETARY'S FIRST MONTHLY REPORT.

April, 1885.—The first one to respond to the call for the formation of Legions, was Mr. Frank H. Metcalf, of Holyoke, Mass.,

who is now secretary of a Legion of eight members in that place.

The following is a list of the Legions, their officers and addresses, received since the announcement in the March issue :

Name.....
Address.....
Location of observations.....
Member of Legion.... Date.....

COMPLETE REGISTER OF LEGIONS.

No. of Leg.	Name and Address	No. of Members.	Pres. and Sec'y.
1	"Pioneer," No. 75 Appleton St., Holyoke, Mass.	5	Richard S. Brooks F. H. Metcalf.
2.	"Towanda," Pa Box 513.	5	Jacob Albert, J. Elmer Post.
3.	"Sharon," Wis.	4	Edw. L. Durkee, Chas. Dickinson.
4	"Reading," Pa No. 418 Washington St.	5	Geo. H. Hepler, Robt. H. Irvine.
5.	"Devil's Lake," D. C. Lock Box No. 6.	-	C. P. Brainerd, B. E. Cole.
6.	"Millville," N. Y.	-	Herbert Westwood, S. D. Bennett, Jr.
7	"Roxbury," Mass. Box 5, 277, Boston	-	T. Warren, Herbert S. Pratt
8.	"Cincinnati," Ohio No. 426 Sycamore St.	4	Edward Catlow, Miss Edith Catlow
9.	"Buffalo," N. Y. No. 10 Park Place.	4	S. J. Larned, F. M. Chamot.

Explanation.—The President's name is placed above the Secretary. The address given is that of the Secretary. For example, should you wish to write to Legion No. 1, address F. H. Metcalf, Sec'y, No. 75 Appleton street, Holyoke, Mass.

The "Pioneer Legion," of Holyoke, Mass., has about decided to issue an amateur paper in the interests of birds, their nests and eggs, to be entitled *Our Birds*. A communication from Mr. Metcalf, the Secretary, on this subject will be found among "Legion Reports."

Various questions have been sent in, in regard to the admission of single members, or those who could not find enough persons interested in ornithology and oölogy to join. To accommodate these, it has been decided that a due of 75c. be paid to the Chief Secretary, so that in case members should chance to be added to form a Legion, the sum can be used as a subscription fee.

To aid in our study of ornithology and oölogy, it has been decided to require a monthly report from each individual member, and signed by himself, containing no more than five and not less than two pages of common note paper, written on one side only. These will be folded from side to side, and signed as follows :

The contents of these reports must relate to the observations of the member on birds, their nests and eggs, contain no personal or individual remarks, and, above all, be concise and to the point. Interesting reports will therefore be expected on the first of every month from the Corresponding Secretaries of the Legions, to whom the reports will be handed by the members. The best and most valuable of these will be selected for publication. Secretaries will please see that this regulation be carried out.

Several Legions have thus far sent in copies of their by-laws, and while some of them are brief, others are too long and contain too much unnecessary matter. The following is an extract from the by-laws of Pioneer Legion, No. 1 :

Rules.—Any member not attending a regular meeting, and without satisfactory excuse, must contribute some specimen toward a general museum," etc.

The above is an excellent rule, and it will be advisable for all Legions to adopt

it. In case there is no regular place of meeting the specimens should be kept in the most convenient and accessible situation.

If possible every Legion should have one place of meeting, as the officers or committee see best. Should this be an impossibility meetings at the different members' residences, in succession, will be in order.

Legions sending subscriptions to THE YOUNG OÖLOGIST must state at what time it is to be commenced, and these remittances must be made by *postal note or money order*, payable at Painted Post, N. Y.

Address all communications for this department to

J. R. CURTIS,
Painted Post,
Steuben Co., N. Y.

LEGION REPORTS.

A report is expected monthly from each Legion for this column.

HOLYOKE, Mass., March 24, 1885.

Our Legion has decided to publish an eight-page monthly, devoted to the study of "Birds, their Nests and Eggs." We also decided to call it *Our Birds*.

The collecting season is near and we are all prepared for it. Last January, during three weeks of spring weather, a pair of House Sparrows remodeled an old nest that was on our barn, and on the 16th ult. I found six fresh eggs.

Yours, &c.,

C. H. M., Cor. Sec.

READING, Pa., March 24, 1885.

We met last night, drew up our by-laws and made a plan of work for the coming spring and summer. Had quite an enthusiastic meeting.

Yours,

R. H. J., Cor. Sec.

DEVIL'S LAKE, Da., March 15, '85.

We write to inform you that we have organized a Legion here, and respectfully request that we may be enrolled in the "Grand Army" as the Devil's Lake Legion of the Knights of Audubon. We have four members, but what we lack in members we hope to make up in enthusiasm and in hard work.

Yours, &c.,

B. E. COLE, Cor. Sec.

TOWANDA, Pa., March 14, 1885.

Have formed a Legion here with five charter members. Our topic for discussion at the next meeting is "Catbirds."

Yours,

F. ELMER POST, Cor. Sec.

BUFFALO, N. Y., March 28, 1885.

We have decided to form a Legion of the Knights of Audubon, in response to a call in THE YOUNG OÖLOGIST. We now number four members, but soon expect to enlarge our membership.

We record this morning the first Bluebirds of 1885. My attention was first drawn to them by their unmistakable call, and, upon following, I soon found them. I received a communication to-day, stating that in a part of this city near the suburbs the Robins, Bluebirds and Song Sparrows were quite plentiful. I recorded the first Robin March 30th, but have heard that they were quite abundant before that date. This morning the Robins were quite abundant, as were the Bluebirds, while yesterday I couldn't find or even hear one.

Yours,

E. M. C., Cor. Sec.

CINCINNATI, O. March 23, 1885.

Reading in the March number of the formation of the Knights of Audubon, and being interested in birds, their nests and eggs, we have formed a Legion with four members. Hoping we may prove a faithful and working Legion, we remain,

Yours, &c.,

Miss E. C., Cor. Sec.

SHARON, Wis., March 14, 1885.

We met on the 13th and organized a Legion of three members, expecting to add more soon.

Yours,

C. H. D., Cor. Sec.



"A Novel Contest."

I have read in THE YOUNG OÖLOGIST of fights between Hawks and Jays, Jays and English Sparrows, etc., but never of any between a Hawk and a Wild Duck. I send you an account of an exciting contest between the two latter birds, which I copied from a Chester county daily paper, thinking it might interest some of your readers:

"A NOVEL CONTEST. — A gentleman driving into West Chester on Saturday last witnessed a novel contest. It was a fight between a Chicken Hawk and a Wild Duck. The attack was made by the Hawk on the Duck, at the Brandywine, in East Bradford. After an exciting contest the Duck proved victorious, and the Hawk gave up the battle without making a meal of the toothsome Duck." F. L. B.,

Berwyn, Pa.

Correspondence.

FROM PENNSYLVANIA.

I am taking notes on the migration of birds for the Ornithologists' Union. The following are a few of the "notes" taken. You are welcome to all that I can give, and I think your scheme a most excellent one. THE YOUNG OÖLOGIST is doing more for oölogy than any journal or society yet founded.

Feb. 17. About 20 Am. Titlarks noticed on the snow and ice. Clear.

Feb. 20. One Song Sparrow.

Feb. 23. Saw one Am. Goldfinch in winter plumage. Slightly warmer.

Feb. 26. Snow yet on ground. Two flocks of Horned Larks (Shore Larks) on road feeding. They were quite tame.

March 2. Two Field Sparrows.

March 1. Robins.

March 10. Killdeer Plover.

March 15. Purple Grackle—Swamp Sparrows.

March 16. Chipping Sparrows in small flocks.

March 17. Bluebirds. Red-and-buff-shouldered Blackbirds.

March 20. Ruby-crowned Kinglet.

March 27. First nest, containing four fresh eggs of the common Crow taken to-day. Saw several Fox Sparrows.

Noticed the Red-tailed and Cooper's Hawk (here called "Chicken Hawk") this spring.

Feb. 27. Captured some Siberian Snow Fleas on top of the snow. There is no freeze in them.

I do not send complete list of arrivals according to your answer to C. K., Milwaukee, Wis., in March number.

H. K. L.,
Landis Valley, Pa.

FROM GEORGIA.

I found my first nest for 1885 on March 20th. It was a Screech Owl, containing 3 eggs, incubation slight, female caught and skinned, and on dissection found 9 eggs in 3 stages of development, proving that she would have laid 12 eggs in all during the season.

Cedar-birds have been quite numerous here for the past month, and I had quite a good time shooting them. I would like for some of the readers of the YOUNG OÖLOGIST to tell me if they have ever seen a Cedar-bird, such as described below. While out shooting with Mr. Geo. Noble, a Taxidermist, the other day, one Cedar-bird was shot, which was different from all the others I have ever seen. Breast pure white, tail feathers on the ends instead of being yellow, were white; wax

tips white instead of red. Our weather is still chilly, and very few of our birds have arrived as yet. Will let you hear from me as soon as I have anything worth noting.

Yours in haste, T. D. P.
Savannah, Ga.

FROM NEW JERSEY.

I received Davies Egg Check-list, find it to be an excellent book, a great deal more than I expected, also blow-pipe, which I find to be excellent. March YOUNG OÖLOGIST at hand; I received it at noon; in the morning I was walking down the street, on a tree not ten feet from me, was a woodpecker, it was either a downy or a hairy woodpecker, but they resemble each other so much, I am unable to say which it was; on the other side was an English Sparrow, which every now and then the sparrow would peep around the tree. I watched them for about two minutes, when the woodpecker flew to another tree, the sparrow following, he was on the tree for about a minute, when the little bully flew at him, driving him from the tree, across the street, and around a house, where I lost sight of them, that brought into my mind the idea of writing to you. When I received THE YOUNG OÖLOGIST at noon, I found Mr. E. E. piece, asking for the opinion of other Oölogists; my opinion is that they are little pests and ought to be exterminated from America at least. I myself have seen them attack the Cuckoo, Cat-bird, Oriole, and even our domestic pigeon, and drive it back to its cot. One of our neighbors next door to us has a fine large bird house, which is just packed with sparrow nests. Last summer I was witness to a fight between Purple Martins and the English Sparrows, the sparrows gained the battles and drove the Martins away. The Bluebirds also have been driven from the bird houses around our place, and any person can see that it is not an insect-eating bird by the shape of the bill, which is hard and differently shaped from the general insect-eating birds. I think that if every collector would take all the eggs, destroy the nest and parent bird if possible; it may seem cruel, but it is about the best way I know of, and it is better to destroy birds which are of no, if any use, than have the birds which cheer us with their sweet little songs and destroy the vermin which infests our trees.

Respectfully yours, H. W.,
Millville, N. J.

Mr. Editor:—I would like to say a word about the English Sparrow.

They are fairly over-running this town, all through the public streets they build

behind signs, in the mouldings, in fact, every place there is room to squeeze. I have put up several houses with tops, which can be opened. From one nest I took my "eggs-a-day" as regular as I did from my hens. I took seventeen eggs from that nest. I then tacked a piece of tin over the door with one tack, and tied a string to it, at night I pulled the string which pulled the tin over the door, and then take the bird out. I killed many that way. I also took over seventy eggs of the sparrow last summer. Let us hear from others, and all help to drive out the pests.

J. S. G.,
Vineland, N. J.

FROM NEBRASKA.

After reading the article from "L." of Manhattan, Kansas, in regard to the Song Sparrow, I will say that I have been seven years in Nebraska, and have never found a Song Sparrow's nest, nor ever seen the bird. I live about 100 miles N. W. N. from Manhattan. Being a native of western Massachusetts I am as familiar with the bird, as with the crow or robin.

Three years ago I saw the first robin that I ever encountered in this county. I enquired diligently and could only find one man who had ever seen the bird here before. He saw a pair the year before. Last year I found five nests in this vicinity, and the other day (March 11th) I saw a pair out in my front yard, which I can see among the little apple trees as I write. Last summer I took 4 eggs of what I supposed to be the Blue Jay, but which, on reaching home, differed so radically from my other Jay eggs, that after a very careful study of Coues' description, I concluded to call them the eggs of Woodhouse Jay. Coues says: Rocky Mountain region from Wyoming and Idaho, "southward" and says also, "they live in the scrub-oak and other thickets." I found this nest in a hedge of young box-elders and cotton-wood, built in four rows to protect some young fruit trees. The Meadow Lark came this year March 10th, when I was building a house just outside of town, and perched on the dead corn-stalks, and uttered its peculiar cry occasionally all day, but *did not sing* until the following morning, when it greeted me with its well known melody.

I omitted to mention while speaking of the sparrows, that the Black-throated Bunting seems to take the place of the song sparrow here, being found in large numbers. They came this year March 2d, in a large flock.

The Chipping Sparrow I have never seen here.

Can some of your southern readers tell

me the true name of the "Moss Bird," I cannot describe the bird, but found its nest on the dry limb of an Ash tree, a ball of moss deeply hollowed, with eggs about the size of the chickadee, white, dotted all over with minute dots of various shades. The eggs I have were so far advanced in incubation, that the shells are rather difficult to describe. Perhaps the foregoing attempt at a description will be sufficient for some reader to identify them.

Yours,
N. A. S.
York, Nebraska.

We think friend S's. "Moss bird" is doubtless the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher.—[Ed.]

FROM WISCONSIN.

During the past winter a farmer near here was in the habit of regularly putting out oats and bread for a pair of White-bellied Nuthatches (*Sitta carolinensis*) which remained about his house. The birds would take the oats and deposit them in the rough bark of an oak which grew near by, eating them at their leisure. Was all this trouble taken for convenience in eating or as a provision against future want? They ate the bread where it was placed. Thought they lived entirely on insect food. Has any one else found them eating vegetable food?

Six Red throated Divers (*Colymbus septentrionalis*) were caught on the lake near here during the past winter. Some, if not all, were caught by boys who went out on the ice. When once lighted it was with great difficulty that they could get started again, and if one was quick enough he could easily catch it. The bird is rarely found here I am told.

Shot a Cedar Waxwing (*Amphisp. cedrorum*) last spring with the tail feathers tipped with the wax-like appendages. They were imperfectly developed, some of the feathers lacking them entirely. Is this a usual occurrence?

BIRD ARRIVALS FOR 1885.

Shore Lark (*Eremophila alpestris*) Feb. 28.
Northern Shrike (*Lanius borealis*) Mar. 2.
Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*) March 3.
Red-headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*) March 7.
C. A. K.,
Milwaukee, Wis.

March 1, 1885. While out in the woods to-day I saw the feathers and skeleton of an owl in the narrow crotch between two trees, and under these were the skull and bones of a rabbit. They had evidently got caught there while the owl was struggling with his prey. Found a Little Red Screech Owl dead in the snow.

March 3. Have heard several Lark Finches singing around in the fields. Heard the "scream" of a Red-shouldered Hawk.

March 9. A flock of Cedar-birds alighted on our grapevine. I shot one and was disappointed to find it was not its cousin, the Bohemian. Saw a Red-headed Woodpecker which had evidently wintered here.

March 28. Heard a Bluebird.

March 29. Found a flock of Red Cross-bills in a tamarac swamp; they were feeding on the tamarac seeds and were very tame; I shot eleven of them. The male is a yellowish-red mixed with dark brown. The female is yellow and gray. It is a rare bird for this part of the country.

E. L. B.,
Durand, Wis.

I thought perhaps you and some of the readers of THE YOUNG OOLOGIST would like to know when ducks, etc., are first seen at our Lake. Figures at the right tell how many seen in the flock:

March 28, Gull (unknown species).....	4
" 29, Killdeer.....	6
" 29, Golden Eyes.....	23
" 29, Sheldrake.....	10
" 30, Red-heads.....	4
" 30, Black-heads.....	11
" 30, Teal (Blue-wing).....	2
" 31, Wood Duck.....	1
" 31, Mallard.....	13
" 31, Coot.....	1
April 1, Butterballs.....	8
" 1, Ruddy Duck.....	14
" 1, Wild Geese.....	41
" 1, Magansers.....	7
" 2, Widgeon.....	2
" 2, Pintails.....	8
" 2, Spoonbill.....	1
" 2, King-billed Black-heads.....	4
" 3, Canvas-back.....	10

B. W.,
Lake Koshkonong, Wis.

FROM NEW BRUNSWICK.

On June 1st, 1884, I found a Yellow-shafted Flicker's nest containing ten eggs. It was the largest set I have ever seen, but unfortunately they were too far advanced to blow, so I left them to hatch.

On June 15th I took a set of four eggs of the White-bellied Swallow from a hollow fence pole. The nest was built on top of an old nest, which also contained four eggs with holes in them.

A friend of mine found a Summer Yellowbird's nest with five eggs. Was it an unusually large set?

During the past winter I have taken three Barred Owls, one Hawk Owl, one Richardson's Owl and one Saw-whet Owl. I

usually get a Great-horned Owl or two, but have seen none this winter.

H. H. M.,
Oak Bay, N. B.

FROM MANY.

I saw my first robin on April 1st, first blackbird April 1st, first Black Snowbird April 2d, first Bluebird April 7th.

T. C., Seaforth Ont.

The Westfield, Wis., Union says a red-winged blackbird has been staying on the premises of several farmers in that section all winter.

On April 4 I found a nest of the Red tailed Hawk, containing three eggs, which I took. April 6 another nest I got contained four eggs of same bird. Incubation far advanced. Is not that early for them?

C. S., Des Moines, Ia.

While in Florida about four weeks ago (Feb. 10) I found a Loggerhead Shrike's nest with four eggs in it. Isn't it right early for birds to lay. I found several other nests not completed.

J. M. A., Jr., Murfreesboro, Tenn.

While walking along the western shore of Conanicut Island last summer I saw a flock of Purple Grackles feeding on the shore. Curious to know what they found to eat upon a beach and in apparently great abundance, I watched and saw that they were small clams. The birds breed very plentifully in the swamp just beyond this beach.

J. M., Newport, R. I.

I think G. H. S. is a little late on the arrival of the Red-tailed Hawk as in the March number. On March 30, 1884, I found a nest of this species complete and obtained the set on April 15. He stated they arrived about the middle of April.

Yours truly,
F. T.
Lake City, Minn.

On the first of this month (March) I found a nest of the White Rumped Shrike containing five eggs; two days later I looked in the nest and saw seven eggs. A friend of mine found a nest of the Mourning Dove, two eggs which were fresh. I think that is very early for a Mourning Dove to lay. Yours truly,
H. C. L.,
Hamford, Cal.

I saw in the March number an account of a friend seeing Meadow Larks upon December 31. In this part of the country they are quite common in the coldest winter weather, while the snow covers the ground several inches thick.

W. S.,
Lewiston, Idaho.

Fully a score of collectors informs "Hawk" that Catbirds frequently lay five

eggs, and from the testimony received spotted Robin eggs can hardly be called "very, very rare."

PUMP THUNDER; BROAD-WINGED HAWK.

The "Pump Thunder" enquired about by J. W. L., Brandon Vt., is undoubtedly the American Bittern; through central New York it is properly styled the "Thunder Pumper" from its peculiar note, supposed to be made by the bird immersing its bill under water, and "pumping" the air out of its lungs. Answering the question about the southern limit of the nesting of the Broad-winged Hawk, I would say two nests with eggs have been taken in this county, about 20 miles west of Philadelphia. I have not the data at hand, but will endeavor to obtain it and report.

I have received the copy of "Davie's Check-list," and consider it a very valuable addition to the literature of the subject, and worth far more than the price asked.

Very truly, C. J. C.,
Kennett Square, Pa.

© FROM MINNESOTA.

On the 28th I found a new nest of the Red tailed Hawk, nearly completed, having been made since they arrived on the 25th. They will probably begin to lay in about two weeks. In a recent number of the Y. O. I noticed that your correspondents at Durand and Milwaukee, Wis., observed no Pine Grosbeaks and Northern Waxwings in their respective localities this winter, I would say they, as well as the Evening Grosbeak, (a regular winter visitor here) have not been seen in this vicinity this winter. I cannot see any reason why they should not visit us this winter, unless it may be on account of the unusual cold. Let us hear from others on the subject.

G. H. S.,
Lake City, Minn.

FROM MASSACHUSETTS.

Dear Sir:—Cannot you give a few notes on Larks in THE YOUNG OOLOGIST. It would be of interest to me, and, I think to many other readers. If you would give a description of the different kinds, stating the locations where they breed. We have the Meadow Lark here; it builds in meadows, making a very neat and compact nest out of dead grass, &c. It is covered over, something like the Golden-crowned Thrush's, having an opening in the side. Will you please state if the Meadow Lark, Horned Lark, and Skylark are all different

birds. Will you also state if the Black and Purple Martin are the same.

I have a word to say in regard to the English Sparrows. I had nothing against them until last spring, I found a nest May 16th, in a dead limb of an apple tree. After taking out the nest, which was composed of feathers mostly, I found a White-bellied Swallow dead. My opinion was, that after the swallow had chosen that place to build, the sparrow had interrupted them, and finding one in the hole, had picked it until they succeeded in killing it. Then, as they could not get their murdered victim out, they built their nest on it.

Is not the "Baltimore Oriole" a properly used name? In a book by J. D. Champlin, Jr., it is given as "Baltimore Bird," saying it is wrongly called Oriole as there are no Orioles in the United States.

C. W. S.,
Tyngsboro, Mass.

The Larks mentioned are different descriptions in future issues. Black and Purple Martins are the same.

"A 'LOONY' LOOKING BIRD."

I have before me a "loony" looking bird which I would describe about as follows: Throat and underparts white; nucha and cervix hoary gray; vertex, occiput, wings, tail and back (which has a few small whitish spots) are about the same color, a pale black, perhaps the occiput is more of a drab; the primaries are black. The bill, which I think is faded, resembles in form that of the Western Grebe and is about three inches long. The anterior toes are palmate, the outer ones being the longest and measure $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Length, $26\frac{1}{2}$; ext., $42\frac{1}{2}$; wing, $19\frac{1}{2}$; tail, $2\frac{3}{4}$.

I was not able to determine sex, the bird having been shipped in from an adjoining town nearly a week ago was not in a condition to invite close scrutiny. Perhaps some of the numerous, and no doubt better posted readers of THE YOUNG OOLOGIST could tell me "what is it?"

R. B. T., Valparaiso, Ind.

THE AMERICAN PARTRIDGE NOT A QUAIL.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE YOUNG OOLOGIST.

Dear Sir: I noticed in the March number that E. T. M. speaks of flushing *flocks* of *Quails*.

As for speaking of flocks of Quails it is an error. Flock should be applied to wild ducks, shore birds or wild fowl of every description, teal and reed birds (bobolinks). But calling our bird a quail, it is most decidedly a mistake.

It has been stated that our bird (*Perdix Virginianus*, Bob White, or Partridge) is more closely allied to the European quail than to the English partridge, but such is not the fact, as our bird resembles the quail in no one particular save in the habit of partial emigration, which it exhibits at the running season.

The meat of the European quail is *dark*, and often loaded with fat, while that of our bird is *white*, and invariably lean.

Quails seldom form themselves into coveys, while our bird almost always does. The quail is also less prolific than our bird. When quails migrate they assemble in large numbers, but as soon as they arrive at their destination they separate and each one seeking his own food and guarding his own safety. How widely different is all this from the habits of our bird! Is not this enough to convince one that our partridge is not a quail?

Our bird should be called partridge, Bob White, or by the scientific name, *Perdix Virginianus*.

Hoping that the readers of *THE YOUNG OOLOGIST* will no longer call our partridge by the very common, but unmistakably wrong name of quail, (as we have no quail in our country), I remain, your obedient servant,

N. S. H. S.,
Concord, N. H.

BROAD-WINGED HAWK

To the friend from Chester county, Pa., who wants to know how far the nest of the Broad-winged Hawk has been found I can tell him that I found one on the shore of Lake Harney in Florida with four eggs in it. I think that Charles J. Maynard found some there last season.

J. T. J., Malden, Mass.

Mr. Nehrling (Ark) gives the Broadwing Hawk as nesting in the vicinity of Houston Texas

G. H. R.,
Gainesville, Tex.

ORCHARD ORIOLE.

If from this description you can name this bird, will you do so in *THE YOUNG OOLOGIST*.

Locality, Waterloo, Alabama. Nest built in the top of a mulberry tree twenty feet from the ground, and composed entirely of fine dry grass, cup-shaped like a Baltimore Oriole, perhaps not quite so deep. The nest contained four eggs. The one I now have has lines and blotches like an Oriole but is smaller, measuring .85 by .58. The bird was yellowish color.

Yours truly, J. C. W.

Orchard Oriole.—[Ed.]

ENCOURAGEMENT vs. CLIMBERS.

One day a friend and I went to a place called Carr's Thicket, near Ridley Park, Del. Co., Pa. As we were hunting around we spied a nest about 50 feet up in a large black oak tree. My friend put on his irons and commenced to ascend, as he got higher, he got more frightened but my telling him that if *he* could not go up, there was not one in Morton that could. By coaxing him in this manner a while, he reached the nest, and had to grab hold of it and pull himself up so that he could look over. The first thing he said was, the are five large eggs, as big as flour barrels. We went home with our prize to try and find out what kind they were. The only thing we thought they were, were Osprey's.

The nest was in a large black oak tree, about 50 feet from the ground. The nest was about as large as half a flour-barrel, made of coarse sticks, lined with shreds of bark. The eggs, five in number, were about 2.25x1.75 in., color dirty light green, one egg had fine small specks on butt end.

As we got near the nest the bird sat very erect, like an owl, add was about 10 inches high. We don't think it was any species of heron, for it had sharp talo is and a hooked beak. What was it?

W. I. D., Morton, Pa.

Notes From Philadelphia.

Large-billed Water Thrush—May 31st, 1884, while going through a thick woods, I discovered a nest of this bird in the dead leaves under a laurel bush. It contained four eggs, almost incubated; they were brittle and very hard to blow. The nest was situated on the side of a hill near Wisahickon creek.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo—July 12, with a friend I visited a nest of this bird at Mill creek. It was in a tree, 12 or 15 feet up, and contained two young and four eggs. The nest was right over the road and only about twenty yards from a railroad.

Acadian Flycatcher.—June 8th, 1884, found a nest containing two eggs, which had been set on about four days. This was a very pretty set, one egg having spots on it as large as a Wood Pewee's. This year I have found about eight of these nests, and all but two contained two eggs. Last year all I saw contained three eggs.

E. C. E.,

Manayunk, Phila.

Queries Answered.

Queries to be answered in these columns should be written on a postal or slip of paper—never mix them in your letter when writing about other matters.

T. N. J., Santa Barbara, Cal.—Your "bush bird" is the Crimson House Finch, and your "hang bird," "titmouse" is the Least Tit.

W. H. T. Jr., Phila., Pa.—The Bartram's Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*) is a South American species, and was consequently omitted from "Ridgway's Nomenclature of North American Birds."

H. T. E., Bradford, Pa.—The measurements given in Davie's Egg Check List of the eggs of the White-bellied Nuthatch are correct. Your small Nuthatch eggs are Black-capped Chickadee's.

F. C., Ashland, O.—From description of the nest and eggs of your "Munac bird," would say that it is either the Yellow-billed Cuckoo or Green Heron. Send us measurements of the eggs and we'll inform you.

G. G. C., Minneapolis, Minn.—There is but slight if any difference between the eggs of the "western" and "eastern" varieties of many birds, but the birds themselves, of these varieties, can be more or less readily distinguished. Renewals can be sent in at any time.

H. S. W., Normal, Ill.—We have never used or tried the "Preservative Preparation" you mention, and consequently can neither praise nor condemn. We take the following from our scrap-book, and think it will answer the purpose just as well and possibly is nearly the same preparation: "To preserve small birds entire, take strong alcohol and dissolve in it about one drachm of corrosive sublimate to every quart of the spirits. Test with a black feather to see that it is not too strong of the sublimate. Soak small birds in this preparation three or four days, then take them out and allow to dry. For a bird the size of a pigeon, remove the entrails, wash it clean and let it remain ten to fifteen days."

J. R. H., San Francisco, Cal.—The eggs of the Arizona Goldfinch are a trifle smaller than those of the American.

H. P. B., New York City.—Portions of the embryo can be pulled through the hole in the shell and can be clipped off with the embryo scissors piece-meal. The Wilson's Thrush nests on or near the ground. The Wood Thrush usually nests in saplings in thickets.

M. G., Basil, O.—The Little Screech Owl lays from four to seven pure white eggs—nearly round, about 1.35 by 1.19 in.

E. L. W., Chatham Centre, O.—The eggs of the Arctic Bluebird are similar to those of the common Bluebird. Davie, in his Egg Check List, gives them a little larger. Also from the same we take the following description of the eggs of the Baird's Sandpiper: "Buff or clay colored, spotted and blotched with varying shades of chestnut-brown; size variable—average 1.30 by .90 in."

H. C. J., Hanford, Cal.—The Red-shafted Flicker replaces the Yellow-shafted in Western N. A. Coues' Key is the standard work.

F. E. W., Okaloosa, Ia.—The Yellow-breasted Chat has a golden yellow breast and olive green back.

O. P., Little Neck, N. Y., would like to know the various local names by which the Yellow-shafted Flicker is known, and suggests that the subscribers of THE YOUNG OOLOGIST send in the names by which it is known in their respective localities. Let us hear from all. This list will prove exceedingly interesting.

R. B. T., Valparaiso, Ind.—Glass and liquids are unavailable unless packed in wooden, or some equally strong substitute, boxes.

A. S. R., Sycamore, Ill.—The Downy Woodpecker is a permanent resident here, and is doubtless in your locality.

H. N. B., Polo, Ill., desires to learn the correct name for the Colorado bird known as the "Camp Robber."

A. C. S., Toledo, O.—The bird which you call "Ground Chippie" is the Field Sparrow.

Nest of the Ruby-Throated Hummingbird.

I received your monthly yesterday, and read it through last evening. I was very much interested in it, but can hardly think that the Hummingbird (*T. colubris*) covers the nest with a large leaf during a rain storm, as one of your correspondents mentioned. I have observed Hummingbirds' nests from the time the young were hatched, until they left the nest, and never saw anything to indicate that they were covered up. I have six nests and eggs, three of which I found in an apple orchard within 10 trees of each other, in 1883.

The first on July 26th, containing 2 fresh eggs. August 6th, I found an empty nest in which had been young birds, and within an hour, three trees from the nest found July 26th, another containing 1 egg and a piece of dead bark. I watched it for two hours that day and the next, but saw no bird, and concluded it had been deserted on account of the bark getting into it; the egg was fresh. I came to the conclusion that all three nests were made by the same bird. The empty nest containing the first brood, the one with two fresh eggs the second, and the one with 1 egg and bark the third clutch. I have them all in shape of a tipot, under a glass shade; two of the nests were on dead branches, with no chance to empale a leaves during rain storms. The other three nests were also found in one orchard, and much nearer together than those reported, but in two seasons. The first I found June 22d, 1881, with two eggs nearly ready to hatch; 25 days after, in the next tree of the next row, I found the second with two young just out of the shell. May 25th, 1883, in the next tree of the next row, I found the third nest with two fresh eggs within three feet of the second, but I broke one of the eggs in taking it from the nest; none of the nests I have found were over nine (9) feet from the ground, and all in apple trees.

J. L. D., Lockport, N. Y.

Interesting Happenings.

Editor of the Y O—I saw a very interesting performance this morning. A crow flew down under an apple tree and began walking around on the snow as if he was looking for something. Pretty soon he found what he was looking for and began to bore in the snow with his bill. He worked away till finally he pulled out a decayed apple. He then stuck his bill into it, flew up in a tree and there ate it. How he knew where to look for the apple floored me.

As I was walking along the shore of a small lake I came suddenly upon a young Spotted Sandpiper. As soon as he saw me

he ran along the shore and stuck his head in a bunch of grass, thinking, no doubt, that his whole body was concealed because his head was. I picked him up, when he began to utter shrill cries, which attracted the parent bird. She, on seeing that I had one of her young, feigned a broken wing to attract me away. I took the young one to the water and let it go, when it started out and swam for quite a distance like a duck. It soon tired and came back to the shore. I started on a run towards the little fellow, when he quickly plunged *under the water* and swam out for quite a distance, using his wings for paddles. He then rose to the surface and landed on a small rock to dry his feathers.

W. G. T.,
Plymouth, Ct

English Sparrow.

EDITOR YOUNG OÖLOGIST

Dear Sir:—I am glad to see this subject brought forward in your columns; "what is to be done with the little tyrants," is a knotty question. I remember, when about 1877 the English Sparrow first made its appearance, that Robins and Orioles were quite numerous about the house, and the nest of either species could be found without any difficulty. As the sparrows became more numerous, other birds fell off, and last spring I could not find a single Oriole's nest, or a pair in their old haunts. It's high time these interlopers were stopped in their depredations. As for those benighted people who imported them, scarcely enough can be said to censure such an unwise act. Everyone asks how they can be gotten rid of: can no one answer the question? Last summer I invested in an air rifle, inexpensive, and very useful: it is nearly noiseless, and the little pests so tame, that one can get within easy range and slaughter half-a-dozen or so, before they suspect your presence. With this little weapon I killed nearly two hundred in a week, until they became quite wild, I have vowed vengeance on the little rascals, and never spare the eggs or young.

Yours truly W. M.
Rochester, N. Y.

Rhode Island Jottings.

Dear Sir:—Enclosed you will find some notes on collecting, taken from my note book, which were made in the vicinity of Providence. They are large sets, and I thought they might interest the readers of THE YOUNG OOLOGIST.

Robin; May 20th, 1884, a set of five fresh eggs, nest built on side of a stone wall in a pasture.

Catbird; June 5th, 1883, brought me a nest and five eggs, nest in a lilac bush, this will answer "Hawks" query in the March YOUNG OOLOGIST.

Bluebird; April 30th, 1884, set of six, nest in a post; May 2d, 1884, six eggs, nest in a hole in an apple tree; May 14th, 1884, took a nest and six eggs out of a piece of drain pipe setting on end, on a shelf in a shed; June 7th, 1884, six, one very small.

Purple Martin; July 5th, 1883, I collected sets of four, and one nice set of five, fresh.

Barn Swallow; June 10th, 1882, I found a set of six.

White-bellied Swallow; June 5th, 1882, a set of six fresh eggs, nest in a hole of a maple tree.

Bank Swallow; June 8th, 1882, sets of six.

Red-eyed Vireo; June 10th, 1882, I collected a set of five eggs, nest in a maple tree over a road.

Goldfinch; Aug. 7th, 1884, brought me a nest and six eggs, perfectly fresh, nest in a maple by side of road.

Red-winged Blackbird; May 25th, 1883, sets of four and only one of five.

Baltimore Oriole; June 6th, 1884, I found a nest of six, nest suspended from an orchard tree.

Purple Grackle; May 8th, 1882, I found a set of six; May 15th, 1882, six, and May 7th, 1884, a nest and six, nests in spruce trees, birds breeding in community.

Crow; April 1882, six eggs out a nest in a maple.

Blue Jay; May 19th, 1883, I collected a set of five out of a nest in a cedar, and

May 17th, 1884, a set of four, nest in an apple tree.

Pewee—Phoebe; May 12th, 1883, I found the only set of six I ever saw, nest built on side of stone under-pinning under a bridge.

Least Flycatcher; May 31, 1884, I collected a nest and five eggs of this bird out of a wild cherry tree.

Yellow-shafted Flicker; have found surely fifteen sets of eight, and only one of nine during 1883—4.

Black-billed Cuckoo; July 4th, 1883, I found a nest containing three eggs, incubation slight, and one young bird.

Osprey; May 20th, 1884, I collected a handsome set of four out of a nest built in a dead locust tree, the birds were very fierce, one knocked off my cap; in the side of this nest a pair of English Sparrows had built, and I obtained five eggs out of this nest.

Red shouldered Hawk; April 16th, 1884, I found a handsome set of four, nest in a maple tree in deep, swampy woods.

C. E. D., Prov. R. I.

A Newsy Letter From Texas.

Editor Young Oologist: A few notes from the Lone Star State will probably be in order. The campaign opened on February 27th, when I took a fine set of three eggs of the Great Horned Owl. March 2d I took another set of this species that would probably have taken the "cake" for earliness if I could have taken it fresh. The nest contained two eggs badly spoiled and one young owl fully half-fledged. Count back and see how early this set could have been taken. March 7th, 11th, 13th and 18th I took sets of an Owl and Hawk that are new to me. I shot and skinned a specimen of each and will report names as soon as determined. March 21st I took my first set of Blue Jay for the season. On the 25th I secured a fine set of Red-bellied Hawk, two eggs; I also found another nest of the Great Horned Owl. Hunting up my climber, I sent him up the tree. What was found in that nest will hardly

ever enter a cabinet. I give a list: Two young Owls, the leg and thigh of a grown chicken and a half-consumed polecat. The nest I found March 2d contained nearly a whole rabbit, and one of the unidentified Owls taken out of a hollow tree had a banquet spread in the shape of a dead rat and a Cedar Waxwing—quite a varied bill of fare.

Some of our birds, *i. e.* Turkey Buzzard, Black Vulture and Hawks, are behind time in nesting this year, owing, no doubt, to the backward spring we are having. I have held back this report until I could take a few more species that generally furnish their quota ere this.

The arrivals to date (March 26th) are as follows, given about in the order of their coming, viz: Purple Martin, Lark Finch, Yellow-winged Sparrow, Bell's Vireo, and on Sunday, March 23d, I saw the first Swallow-tailed Kite. On the 21st inst., while hunting in the bottoms, I saw plenty of Robins and Cedar Waxwings, in fact "the woods were full of 'em." On the 23d I could not find a single bird of either species, they having started on their journey North.

I have been looking over THE YOUNG OÖLOGIST to-day, Nos. 1 to 11 inclusive, and, in the vernacular of the natives, must say it has "come out right smart" in the short time it has been published. The increase in size is a good idea, and I think an issue of twice a month instead of once, as now, would be acceptable.

A few remarks as to my experience with some of the birds that have been written about in the back numbers of THE YOUNG OÖLOGIST may not be out of place. The habit of the Orchard Oriole (mentioned by Mr. Perry) of nesting with other birds has been noticed by me. I have always found them in company with the Scissor-tailed Flycatcher. During '83 I was generally accompanied by two young collectors on my eggging expeditions, and it was a common expression of theirs, after finding a nest of the Flycatcher, "Now, let's look for the grass nest" (*i. e.* Orchard Oriole.) Mr. Perry says of the Cardinal Grosbeak:

"They only lay three eggs." Here they do *sometimes* lay four, as I have taken several sets containing that number. Best of all, one day while out eggging, I found a nest of this species with four eggs of the Grosbeak and one of the Yellow-billed Cuckoo. Has any other collector ever found the Yellow-billed Cuckoo to lay in the nests of other species?

H. E. Deats mentions finding the eggs of the Carolina Dove in the nests of other species. I have taken out of the same nest, first, a set of eggs of the Lark Finch, next a set of Carolina Doves, and third and last, another set of the Lark Finch: pretty good for one nest. The Dove often takes possession of the old nests of other species, at least such is my experience. I find many of their nests on the ground.

The "Reunion of Hawks" mentioned on page 85, October number of THE YOUNG OÖLOGIST, is a yearly occurrence here—can be seen every autumn.

The collecting season will open in earnest about April 1st, and then I will spend the most of my time in the woods, doing, as a severely practical friend of mine remarked, "climbing trees after eggs, just like a varmint." "Varmint" is the Texas vernacular for wild cat, raccoon, opossum, &c. When I do get to work in earnest in the pursuit of "our hobby," I hope to be able to send you some interesting items.

J. A. SINGLEY,

Lee Co., Texas.

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Cliff Swallow	-	05
Barn Swallow	-	05
Summer Redbird	-	40
English Sparrow	-	05
Crimson House Finch	-	12
American Goldfinch	-	08
Lark Finch	-	20
Western Lark Finch	-	35
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Bluebird	-	02
White-rumped Shrike	-	12
Purple Martin	-	12
Cliff Swallow	-	02
Barn Swallow	-	03
Crimson House Finch	-	08
American Goldfinch	-	06
Chipping Sparrow	-	02
Field Sparrow	-	06
Song Sparrow	-	02
Cardinal Grosbeak	-	10

Blue Grosbeak	-	25
Yellow-headed Blackbird	-	10
Red-and-buff-shouldered Blackbird	-	02
Red-and-white-shouldered Blackbird	-	10
Blue Jay	-	06
Pewee	-	06
Red-headed Woodpecker	-	10
Yellow-shafted Flicker	-	04
Barrowing Owl	-	30
Mourning Dove	-	04
Ground Dove	-	25
American Quail	-	08
Californian Quail	-	10
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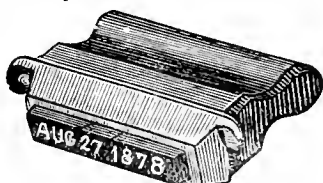
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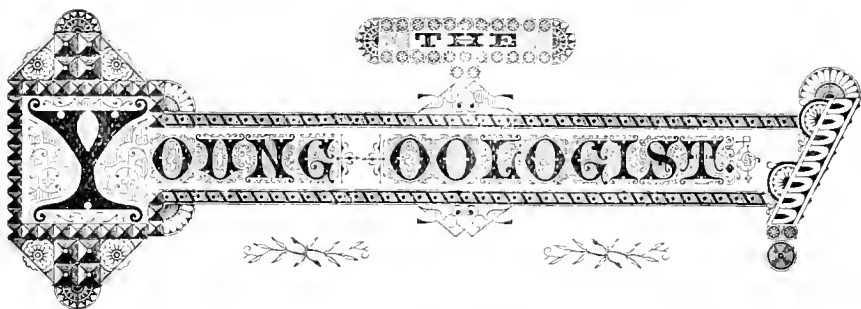
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THE YOUNG OOLOGIST.

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Brief special announcements. "Wants," "Exchanges," inserted in this department for 25 cents per 25 words. Notices over 25 words charged at the rate of one-half cent per word. No notice inserted for less than 25 cents. Notices which are merely indirect methods of soliciting cash purchasers cannot be admitted to these columns under any circumstances. Terms, cash with order.

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We are now selling nice Oologists collecting satchels, made of the finest leather, and are provided with lock and key, and nice strap with Buckle, so they can be strapped on the shoulder, and makes no inconvenience to carry them. Each one provided with a place to keep drills, blow-pipes, &c. A place for eggs, and also a place for minerals, &c. Every collector should have one. They are cheap and satisfaction guaranteed or money refunded. They are also provided with a place for Taxidermists tools, &c. Price only \$1.00, 4 for \$3.00, on receipt of which they will be sent by mail, Post-paid. Remit in Postage stamps 2c. preferred, or a one dollar bill. We have no Money-Order Office, no Bank. Address

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THE YOUNG OOLOGIST.

Vol. II. No. 2.

ALBION, N. Y., JUNE, 1885.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY
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American or Red Crossbill.

This peculiar bird is very seldom seen in this latitude, 41° N., except during very severe winters. We were favored with quite a number last spring, and as they are rare in these parts, having not been seen during the last fifteen or twenty years, I paid particular attention to them while they remained in the neighborhood. I saw them first on the 22d of February, 1884. Seeing that they were a strange bird to me, I shot several and gave them a careful examination. The birds vary, according to their age, in plumage. The males, from the deep scarlet of a male Scarlet Tanager, to a light bronze; the females, from a slate color on the breast and neck, to an almost bright yellow on the back. They have a very peculiar cry, which is very much similar to that of the Pine Grosbeak. There are several characteristic features about this bird that may be of interest to some. They crawl about like the Parrot, using their bill like that bird. They are, I found out, capable of inflicting a severe wound with their bill, which is very sharp and strong. They are very gentle, and if approached, will permit you to get very close to them. I have been within three or four feet of about a dozen, while they were feeding on the cones of the fir and spruce, the seeds of which seem to be their chief food. I even took a thin stick and *touch'd* one, and it did not fly away, but continued to work away at the cone it was on! I took my trout rod with me one day, and also a piece of thread, thinking that I might, perhaps, snare a pair of them. I found them at their usual place among the evergreens of the cemetery. Quite a number were on the ground, hopping about. They seemed quite unconscious of my approach. I jointed my rod and made a running noose, and in a very short time had one. The

cries of the captured bird somewhat alarmed the others, but in a short time all were as hard at work again as they could be. I caught nine in this way. I fed them on mixed bird seeds, which they seemed to be very fond of. They got so fat that they all died, after keeping them about five months. I noticed that several had *pin feathers*. I also *saw* an old female *feed* one. This, I suppose, was a young one, as I understand they breed early in January. The last that I saw of them was on the third of July. There is an old legend connected with this bird I am told, which is still believed in some parts of Germany: It is said that when Christ was nailed to the cross, that one of these birds, which then had *straight* bills, tried to draw the nails out, and in doing so, *lost* its bill. It was on account of this, ever after, to be called the Crossbill.

E. T. MACK,

Nazareth, Pa.

Audubon's Birds of America

We take pleasure in making the announcement that the entire remainder of the magnificent plates to Audubon's world-famous "Birds of America" have recently come into the possession of a Boston firm. As enough of the plates are missing to make it impossible to make them up into complete sets, they have determined to sell them separately. Heretofore these beautiful portraits of our native birds have been sold only in complete sets and necessarily at a high price. There are undoubtedly many persons in every portion of the country who, knowing these masterpieces of art at least by reputation, even if they have not had the good fortune to be able to examine them, would gladly avail themselves of an opportunity to procure one or more for the purpose of framing, could they be pur-

chased separately. Certainly, for no lover of the beautiful in nature, much less for any one who has made the fascinating study of Ornithology either a business or a recreation, can there easily be found a picture more truly grand and beautiful, or one which would possess so many and varied attractions as one of these famous plates of Audubon's. It is perhaps needless for us to say much here in praise of these plates or in explanation of their history. Their production was the result of the labor of a lifetime spent, as it was, in the constant pursuit of this one great object, in which he was sustained by a lofty enthusiasm which no difficulties nor no amount of danger could overcome. In every plate it is Nature herself that is copied. They are full of vivacity, the birds being represented in action amid the scenes, or on the plants and trees most common to their habits, all carefully drawn and colored according to nature. He has not contented himself, as others have done, with single profile views, but in many instances has grouped his figures so as to represent the originals at their natural avocations; and has placed them on branches of trees decorated with foliage, blossoms and fruits, or amidst plants of numerous species. Some are seen pursuing their prey through the air, searching for food among the leaves and herbage, sitting in their nests, or feeding their young; whilst others of a different nature swim, wade or glide in or over their allotted element. In this consists the superiority of Audubon's delineations over those of other naturalists, wherein the birds are represented in as stiff a posture as if they were sitting for their portraits.

The prices have all been placed extremely low, and we feel confident that where a single plate is ordered as a specimen, the result will be so satisfactory to the purchaser that other orders will quickly follow.

Of many of these plates there is but very few copies, and as there can never be any more (the original stones having been destroyed), early orders will be necessary to take advantage of the present offer.

Each plate will be carefully packed in a heavy pasteboard roller, specially made for the purpose, and forwarded by mail, *postage prepaid*, on receipt of the price quoted.

Thinking a description of these plates might be of interest to the readers of THE YOUNG OÖLOGIST, we shall give descriptions of them as our space permits. Should any of our friends desire to purchase any of these plates their orders should be addressed to the Publisher of THE Young OÖLOGIST.

CANVAS-BACKED DUCK.

Of this celebrated Duck, far famed as food for epicures, Audubon presents in this magnificent plate three fine specimens, two males and a female. One of the males is gracefully sailing along on the water, with head erect and as if fully conscious of the beautiful spectacle he presents; while the other standing upon the shore, with outstretched neck and open bill, is preparing to snatch at some object on the surface of the water which has attracted his eye. The female is represented standing upon a rock on the edge of the water. In the background is a view of the city of Baltimore. All three of the birds are drawn life size and colored from nature, and in their easy and graceful positions form a truly magnificent spectacle. Plate 39x26 inches. Reduced from \$25.00 to \$10.00.

PURPLE GRACKLE OR COMMON CROW BLACK-BIRD.

This beautifully colored and life-like plate represents both male and female bird on a stalk of rich green *Maize* or *Indian Corn*, and exhibits them in the full exercise of their nefarious propensities: The male, as if in full delight at the sight of the havoc which he has already committed on the tender, juicy, unripe corn on which he stands, has swelled his throat and is calling in exultation to his companions to come and assist him in demolishing it. The female has fed herself and is about to fly off with a well loaded bill to her hungry and expectant brood that from the nest look on their plundering parents, joyously anticipating the pleasures of which

they shall ere long be allowed to participate. Plate 39x26 inches. Reduced from \$20.00 to \$7.00.

WHITE-HEADED OR BALD EAGLE.

This noble bird, so well known throughout the civilized world and emblazoned on our national standard, is here represented in the act of landing his prey, a large *Yellow Catfish*. The great strength, daring and cool courage of the *White-headed Eagle*, joined to his unequalled power of flight, render him conspicuous among his brethren. The bird is here drawn and colored from life, the general color of plumage being deep chocolate, the head, neck, tail, abdomen and upper and under tail-coverts white.

Notes From Northern Illinois.

The Ruby-throat Humming Birds are very numerous around here. I was watching a flowering currant bush for about half an hour, and saw fifteen or twenty birds during that time. Two birds could not be at the bush at one time, as when the second one came, the one already at the bush would fly out after it and chase it for some distance. I had a good opportunity for observing one of these birds as it sat on a limb, remaining quiet for some time. As it sat with its side towards me I could see no "ruby" feathers at the throat, but when the head was turned it would flash out with remarkable brightness, like a flash of fire. It seemed quite tame, as it was not over ten feet from me, and knew of my presence.

Last year a dead bird was found on these premises. It had evidently dropped from a passing flock, as it was an entire stranger here, and accustomed to colder climates. It was about as large as a duck, covered with a very thick, fine, slate-colored down, was web-footed, legs black and short, the bill was black and pointed like a chicken's. A similar bird was started by my dog, which ran very rapidly for a short distance, when he rose and flew away.

We also caught a live Crossbill, who had flown into an open building, and was trying to escape through the window glass.

It had no fear of persons, and would allow itself to be handled. We fed it on pine cones, when it would "clean out" in a short time, and tear them to shreds. It also ate hard-boiled eggs, which it seemed to enjoy. Its sojourn was short, however, as it died after a few days' captivity.

The English sparrows are very numerous here. For the past few years they have reduced the number of birds very much.

This, however, seems to be a "good year" for birds, as there are a large number here this Spring.

There is a new bird here, that I saw for the first time last year. It is about the size of a Cat-bird. The back, tail and wings are black, with white markings on wings and tail when spread. The body is white; on the throat is a small tuft of brilliant red feathers, looking very much as if it had had its throat cut. Its bill is yellow, and is short and thick. I also noticed another bird with it—evidently its mate. It was of the saw build, with yellow bill, but the plumage was entirely different, this one being of a dirty black color, somewhat speckled with a dirty yellow. They seemed to be very familiar. Can you tell me what kind of a bird it is?

Yours respectfully,

"KINNEY."

Lena, Ill.

Destruction of Birds for Millinery Purposes.

The destruction of birds for millinery purposes is at present attracting some attention. The question is of interest, not only to the naturalist, but also to the farmer. Among the best friends of the latter are the birds. There is the crow, which injures the crops, and the hawk which makes an occasional meal upon his chickens, but the number of those which do him good by destroying insect pests is much greater. Wanton destruction of bird-life for the sake of the milliner is inexcusable. The farmer is not the only one who sorrowfully watches this destruction of some of our birds. Every lover of Nature, and

every friend of the birds, watches it with the same feeling. How large a part of the pleasure of a Summer's ramble through Nature's wooded haunts will be destroyed when the melodious song of the bird and his beautiful feathered form flitting from tree to tree are no longer there. Is the destruction of birds for millinery purposes more than a sentimental grievance? is a question that may be asked. There can be but one answer to it when such interests are at stake. Many prominent scientists reply with us in the affirmative. Large as is the number of birds destroyed by hawks, eagles and other birds of prey, the number killed by man is far greater. "Experience is the best teacher," says an old adage. Looking into the past we learn some interesting facts. We find many cases where species of birds have been exterminated with sad results to the farmer. Several years ago the woodpeckers were thought to be injuring the trees in some portions of Virginia and North Carolina. These birds were indiscriminately slaughtered, and as a result, acres of forests were ruined by the larvæ of a species of boring beetle. Large tracts of forest in Saxony and Brandenburg have been devastated under similar circumstances. Prof. Jenks writes that at Bridgewater, about sixty years ago, the farmers held a shooting match on election day, and a large number of birds were killed. On many acres of pasture land the grass soon assumed a white color. Investigation revealed the fact that it had been destroyed by the larvæ of some insect, the result of the destruction of the birds. But it is apparent that some of our birds are becoming scarce, through the ravages made among them for the millinery trade, and only the above results can follow. In 1883 the Caspian Tern was abundant on Cobb's Island. Feather hunters have been at work there since, and the result is that scarcely a specimen has been secured this season. Men engaged in this business received orders for thousands of birds every day. The Kittiwake Gull is becoming rare in some portions of England. Many species of birds are decreasing through the exorbi-

tant demands of this trade, as for example, the Gulls and Terns on the New Jersey coast, the Egrets and Pelicans in Florida, the Swallows in some parts of Long Island, and the Parrakeet in several Southern States. We say in conclusion: Protect the birds for the good they do.—*Editorial in the Worcester County Naturalist.*

A Nest Full of Eggs.

Three years ago I took a set of ten Robin's eggs from a nest that was in a hemlock within ten feet of our back door. The nest was built by a pair of Robins about the middle of May, and after occupying it for a week it was deserted for about as long. When I noticed it it was again in the possession of either the same or another pair, but after a short stay these too were disturbed, and father not thinking Robins worthy of his hospitality, pulled the nest down and gave to me, and to my surprise it contained ten eggs, all of which were the same in size and color. Robins here universally lay five eggs in the first set, but later on they seldom exceed four. I think this is the case with most birds of the North, and that the birds, by some means or other, know that those reared in the latter part of the season require more care than those that have a chance to prepare themselves for the hardships of winter, or of the migrations southward, and therefore have a smaller family. I would like to hear from others regarding this.

Yours Resp't,

E. W. JUDGE, JR.

Woodbridge, Conn.

Eat the Sparrows.

It is in print that the English Sparrows which are eaten in Philadelphia for Reed birds, are considered as a great delicacy. The flesh of the Sparrow is darker than that of the Reed bird, but the Philadelphia cooks say that only those who have never eaten anything but Reed birds can tell the difference. People who consider Sparrows a nuisance need no further light as to how they may be properly utilized.—*Clipping.*

An Egg Collection Worth \$9,000.

The Executive committee of the Public museum held a meeting last evening, at which a resolution of thanks to B. F. Goss, of Pewaukee, for the presentation of a very choice collection of eggs of North American birds was unanimously adopted. The collection embraces the eggs of 465 species of birds. It has taken Mr. Goss nine years to make the collection and has cost about \$9,000. Mr. Goss delivered the collection to the museum and put it in place himself and at his own expense. It will be opened to public inspection at once. *Milwaukee Sentinel*.

Notes on the Cuckoos.

July 13th, 1883, found a Black-billed Cuckoo's nest in a low pine tree; the bird was on the nest and would not move until my hand was almost on it, then, ruffling its feathers, it left the nest and flew directly at my eyes, and then retreated to a neighboring tree, where it watched me as I examined the nest. Finding only two eggs in the nest I left them and when I returned on Monday,—three days later,—the nest contained three eggs; still thinking that the bird had not yet completed the clutch, I selected the freshest egg and left the other two. On the following Monday I found the nest to hold an addition of two Yellow-billed Cuckoo's eggs. This is my way of explaining it: On my second visit to the nest I handled the three eggs to find the freshest; the bird, on its return, noticed this and abandoned the nest. Through the week a Yellow-billed Cuckoo found the nest; being burdened with eggs, prompted with the same instinct as the European Cuckoo, and the nest having no occupant, it deposited its two eggs. I turned the set over to a prominent ornithologist, who considered the occurrence as very remarkable. Have any of the readers of the *YOUNG OOLOGIST* ever found Cuckoo's eggs in other than their own nests?

The first Yellow-billed Cuckoo's nest that I ever found, contained two eggs; I took only one, hoping that more would be

added to the other. On my return I found bits of the shell lying under the nest and have no doubt but that the bird itself destroyed the egg.

On the 17th of August, 1884, I was rambling through the woods when I met a friend who told me of a Cuckoo's nest which he had passed. I soon hunted it up and found it to contain two fresh eggs; it was situated in a small tree in the midst of a thicket and was about twelve feet from the ground. While I was at the nest one of the birds arrived with a bit of dried leaf in its bill, which proves that the female began to deposit her eggs before the nest was completed. This is my latest date of finding a nest with fresh eggs.

H. K. JAMISON.

Manayunk, Pa.

Notes From California.

On April 4th, I took my first nest for 1885. It was that of the Western Red-tail Hawk (*Buteo borealis calurus*.)

The nest was built in a redwood tree, fifty feet from the ground. It was composed of large and small sticks, and lined with moss, straw and feathers. The eggs, two in number, were dull whitish, with a few pale markings, and measured 2.27 by 1.55.

The nest was found two miles from Santa Cruz, overlooking the bay of Monterey.

April 6th I found a nest with five young ones of the Western Meadow Lark. The young were about a week old.

April 7th I found, five miles from Berkeley, Cal., the nest of the Great Western Horned Owl. The nest was a last year's one, of the Western Red-tailed Hawk, but the Owls had made it their home this year. When I found it there was only one young owl in it, but I found out afterwards, that this nest was found on the 27th of March, it then had three young owls about three weeks old. Not far from the Owl's nest I found a nest and three eggs of the Western Red-tailed Hawk, in an oak tree, fifty feet from the ground, composed of moss, hay and sticks. In the same tree was a nest

which the Hawks had used last year. About two miles from this nest, I found a nest on the face of a large rock, which I thought at first was that of the Horned Owl, because I saw two Owls of this species around the nest, but I soon found out that it was that of the Red-tailed Hawk. While I was climbing up to the nest, the Owl flew at me, as if she was going to fly into my face. I put out my hand to knock her off, and when I did so, she took me by the arm and came near pulling me off of the rock. She would have done so if the cloth in my sleeve had not gave away, and let her fly away with a large piece of it. When I reached the nest, I found one fresh egg of the Red-tailed Hawk. I do not know what made the Owls try to drive me away from this nest for; they must have had a nest of their own hid in the rock, but I could not find it.

April 8th, I found the nest of the Barn Owl in a hole on the face of a cliff. The eggs had hatched, and the young had deserted the nest. I will say that I found this nest on the 5th of July, 1884, it then had three fresh eggs of this Owl. When I was going into the hole, I heard a loud report under me, and when I had cleaned away the ground I found it came from the breaking of an egg which had not hatched. I found thus covered up, five eggs in this hole, and three in a hole five feet from it. This must have been the home of the Barn Owl for many years.

April 10th; I found a nest and five fresh eggs of the Rock Wren, in a hole under a large rock. It was composed of fine sticks and dry grass.

April 20th and 21st: I took sets of four and five eggs, of the Western Meadow Lark.

April 22d: I found a nest and five fresh eggs of the California Jay, in an oak tree, eight feet from the ground. It was composed of sticks and lined with horse hair and white moss. On this same date, I found a nest and six fresh eggs of the Meadow Lark, it was of dry grass with a cover over it.

April 24th: I found a nest and three fresh

eggs of the California Thrasher. It was built in a chaparral thicket, four feet from the ground, formed of rough twigs, and lined with grass. On this date I found a nest and two young ones, of the California Jay, in a tree fifteen feet from the ground.

April 28th: I found a nest of the Red-tailed Hawk in a redwood tree, about seventy-five feet from the ground. The tree was on the side of a hill, and by going up to the top, I could look into the nest and see three or four young Hawks in it.

April 30th: I found a nest and five fresh eggs of the Least Tit, in a tree, fifteen feet from the ground. For a more interesting account of the nest of this bird, see H. R. Taylor's account on page 100, Vol. 1, of THE YOUNG OÖLOGIST.

E. H. FISKE,
Santa Cruz, Cal.

Hummingbird.

I see the YOUNG OÖLOGIST that a person wishes to know if a Humming-bird lays eggs before the nest is finished. I can say from experience in finding these eggs in different places that they do. Last spring, while gunning on the Ocalaahaw River, Fla., I came across a fine little thistle swamp, and close by was a number of wild orange trees, and as this tree is very knotty it naturally leaves small holes in the side of the tree; and after I had collected a number of Green-back Hummers I noticed that they all flew to this orange grove, so I thought I would see if it was the orange blossoms that they went after, but to my surprise I found that they all went into these little knot-holes. When I looked into them there was no sign of a nest; only a little down, and out of these I procured some of the finest specimens of Hummers' eggs I have ever seen. I took from this swamp over 200 Hummers' skins, I collected also, near the line of the Panama Railroad, some very fine Rocket-tails.

Yours,

J. T. JONES,
Malden, Mass.

Wrens on the War Path

Of the pugnacity of the Wren there is no doubt, but I never observed such cases of outrageous impudence in this great insect destroyer before.

Near here, in a bird house against a building, a blue-bird had in peace built its nest, and deposited five eggs; but this was destined not long so to be, for a Wren having no doubt settled upon the same place as its future nursery, one day in the blue-bird's absence, proceeded to lay the structure in ruins forthwith; entering the house stealthily, it thrust its bill into each egg, carried them outside and dropped them to the roof below; proceeding then to carry out the sticks he was driven away, with much scolding, however, and the blue-bird arrived in time to see the said distraction of its treasures. Hither and thither it darted, uttering alternately angry and agonizing cries, doubtless in search of the depredator, but after sorrowfully examining its nest, it flew away and was seen no more. The Wren is now carrying out the old materials and carrying in the new for its own nest, ever and anon giving utterance to triumphant songs, no doubt referring to its own valor.

If the English Sparrow "must go," give the Wren commission, involving full power to kick him out. Four pairs of English Sparrows having appropriated a bird-house of four compartments for their own use, proceeded to construct their nests with all expedition, for they were rather late, when about half finished, a Wren constituted itself a committee to investigate, which investigation did not seem very satisfactory, judging from the way he scolded those sparrows; they did not pay much attention to his protestations but continued, amid storms of abuse to construct their nests. At last, one of the middle nests contained one egg and, at the same time, the Wren's patience seemed exhausted; the Wren with many angry chirps and much eccentric hopping around, finally and fiercely delivered his proclamation of war, at the same time with a flank

movement and a bold dash invading the obnoxious ones retreat, thrust his bill in the egg and threw it to the ground. This was a signal for a battle, the Wren in the box peeping out made such a racket as only a Wren can make (I wish I could have understood him), while the sparrows besieged him from the outside; soon the Sparrows flew off, and the Wren, boiling over with wrath, commenced throwing sticks, feathers, everything out with an angry flint, scolding all the while as severely as he could. Soon six sparrows returned, and taking him unawares, cut off his retreat and compelled him to evacuate, but disputing every inch of ground. Many such encounters occurred—the Wren having the majority of victories on its side.

At present, affairs stand thus: as fast as the Sparrows carry material in the Wren picks it out, carrying in material for itself at the same time; the other compartments are left undisturbed, but why the Wren should build its nest among such neighbors, especially as they now seem to agree, is more than I can imagine. I am anxiously awaiting further developments.

H. K. LANDIS.

Landis Valley, Pa.

Nest of the Golden-Winged Warbler.

(*Helmintophaga Cyroptera*).

In the early part of June of the past year, as I was passing through a piece of low second growth woodland, I flushed a small bird, of which, however, I got only a glimpse as she darted from a clump of tall weeds into the thick foliage of some underwood that partially overhung the spot. A momentary search among the weeds revealed the nest, which contained one egg. The nest was placed upon the ground, but among and sheltered by the weeds. There was first a strata of dry weeds, then a rude formation of dry leaves and inside of this the true nest was placed; this was composed of small stalks of dry weeds, vines, and rootlets, being about two inches in diameter, by one and a half in depth. An examination of this nest, with

another glimpse that I got of the bird, as with notes of disapproval she returned and looked at me, while I stood beside her possession, convinced me that it belonged to a species of which I had no previous personal knowledge. I was also confirmed in this conclusion by the song notes of a strange bird near by, which I took to be her mate, but when I tried to get a nearer view of both, they darted off among the dense foliage of the underwood. As I was anxious to obtain the eggs of this species, and also see more of the parent birds, I looked again at the nest next day, but found that no other eggs had been deposited. Fearing that the one egg might be taken by some other species of egg collector, I removed it, and put in its place an egg of the Red start. Two days afterward I again revisited the nest and found that two more eggs had been deposited. These I also took, and finding after another day or two that no more eggs were laid, I took away the nest and both it and the eggs are now in my collection. In size the eggs are as large as those of the Red-eyed Vireo, which they also resemble in form, the ground color being pure white; they are marked with irregular spots of reddish-brown on the large end and toward the middle. Except on the first day I did not see the birds, but from reading I am led to believe that this nest was that of the Gold-winged Warbler.

WM. L. KELLS,

Listowel, Ont.

— ♦♦♦ — The Fox Sparrow.

PASSERELLA ILLIACA.

This species (so called, on account of the plumage on the upper parts resembling the color of a Fox), is a rare visitant in the vicinity of Listowel, and only as a spring migrant does it occur here, being on its passage from the South, where it has passed the winter season to northern latitudes, where it makes its summer home. Last season, in the later end of March, I observed one solitary individual, but a number of years ago, when residing in North Wallace, a pair of these birds re-

mained on the margin of the woods near where I was sugar-making, for several days, and I then thought that their song notes were among the most pleasing that I had ever heard, having the resemblance to the song notes, both of the Song Thrush and the Song Sparrow. Mr. William Camper, naturalist, of Montreal, who visited Labrador, in the spring of 1867, for the purpose of collecting a series of birds eggs, and determining the species that breed upon that coast, makes the following interesting statement regarding this bird: "The sweet song of the Fox-colored Sparrow is pleasing to the ear, as we wander through the open parts of these northern forests, and it was with no little joy that we discovered the nest on the 15th of June, and authenticated its eggs for the first time. Audubon has made a mistake in his description of the eggs of this species. The egg is larger than that of any other Sparrow found in this latitude, and they are completely covered with blotches of a ferruginous tint. Contrary to the habits of Sparrows, this nest was built in a low fir tree, about three feet from the ground."

WM. L. KELLS.

— ♦♦♦ — The Redhead.

This Duck, which I think resembles a Canvasback more than any other bird, and in fact is said by some to be the result of a cross between a Canvasback and a Scaup Duck, is a somewhat rare bird during the winter in this locality, but begins to make itself quite conspicuous on our lakes and ponds as the spring months waft out the colder winter tides.

Its favorite haunts are large shallow ponds, with water say from three to nine feet deep, and the ponds are especially attractive to this bird, if they are supplied with a margin of high thick reeds or bulrushes. It delights to feed among this latter growth during and often pulling up tender young sprouts by the root, and wherever you find a tolerably good sized pond of water where bulrushes fringe its margin, there you may confidently look

out for Redhead, and often in the same company you will find a few of its near relatives, the Canvasbacks, in a sociable little flock together.

This bird breeds very freely in this locality. In fact it seems as if every pair of birds which remain with us during the summer do so to breed and rear their young. So accustomed have I become to this fact that in the months of May and June, whenever I see an old Drake Redhead placidly swimming around on some pond or asleep on its bank, immediately institute a search among the nearest bunch of rushes with the hope of finding the old mother duck sitting on a nice nest of eggs. I have become so used to the locality generally selected for a nest that I often go straight to it and am seldom disappointed in finding the object of my search. Along towards the last of June the old ducks begin to appear with a nice little flock of from seven to fourteen little toddlers, all yellow and downy, "the latest out." Sometimes I have caught two or three of the shy little fellows and tried to raise and domesticate them, but there seems to be an unsurmountable disposition to "roam" in these little fellows, and although they will eat heartily and thrive while in a coop the moment they get out of confinement they quickly proceed to make themselves scarce, for which propensity they are remarkably well gifted.

The Redhead usually begins building about the 1st of May; from that time fresh eggs may be obtained till about June 1st.

The locality generally selected is among thick reeds in four to six feet of water. In fact the birds will, generally, comrade himself to an old coot's nest which he readily remodels to suit his taste by a few slight additions.

The eggs are of a brownish white or blue color, generally of a more oval shape than the generality of ducks. The number of eggs is from seven to fourteen at a litter. I have also found other eggs in the nest of the Redhead. I recall one special instance which fell under my observation last season on the middle of May.

I found a Redhead's nest containing *fourteen Redhead's eggs, three eggs of the Ruddy Duck and five of the Coot*, quite a nestful in all. The Coot eggs were somewhat covered up by a thin layer of dry reeds, still they appeared perfectly fresh, while the Ruddy Duck and Redhead appeared slightly advanced in incubation, as I flushed a hen Redhead from the nest on my discovery of it. I presume that bird had been successful over its antagonists and co-claimants of the nest, the Coot and Ruddy Duck, in any possible previously disputed contest, or had the Coot or Ruddy Duck mutually agreed to let the Redhead incubate their eggs, and who would claim the various progeny on its issuance from the egg? I was somewhat puzzled over this state of affairs, but dispensed with any possible chance of causing the poor birds any future opportunity for dispute and warfare by taking the whole twenty-two eggs, blowing them and transferring them to my collection, where they still remain, accompanied with their properly gotten up data blank.

A. M. SHIELDS,

Los Angeles, Cal.

Notes on Our Winter Birds.

By way of introduction to the subject of "Bird Migration" (some notes regarding which I may from time to time contribute to "THE YOUNG OÖLOGIST"), let me note that there are about a score of different species of birds: that permanently remain, or occasionally visit this locality during the winter season. Prominent among the smaller species are those is the Black-cap Chick-a-dee, the Brown Creeper, and the White-bellied and Red-bellied Nut-hatches. These species remain here all the year round, and are known to breed, though it is difficult to discover their nesting places. Next to these, as commonly met with in the winter months, are the Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers, which also nest here. Sometimes, though now rarely, the Pilated Woodpecker, is also seen or heard at this season. The Blue Jays are common, and sometimes appear in large stocks. Speci-

mens of the Ruffed Grouse are also met with, and during the past two winters a covey of Bob-Whites have frequented the barn-yard on "Wild Wood." The Snow Buntings are always here from October till the latter end of March, and the English Sparrow is now a permanent resident and yearly becoming more numerous, but only on one occasion have I ever noticed the Bohemian Chatterers. The Northern Butcher bird always pays us a visit in the coldest months, but though the Pine Grosbeaks were here in large stock in the winters of '83 and '84, not a single specimen has been observed this season, and the same may be noted of the Crossbills and the Redpolls. Occasionally a Juncos and a Tree Sparrow have been noticed in the winter months, but this year none have yet been observed, and the same remarks will also apply to all the Owl species, though often some specimens of the Snowy and Great Horned species have been seen and taken in the winter months, and last winter a number of the Mottled and Acadian Owls were captured in barns and other out buildings in this vicinity. In the early part of February, 1884, I heard the hollow croak of a Raven coming over the woods, north of the town, and soon afterwards saw a pair of these birds flying in a southern direction. These were the only specimens of this species that I ever saw in this neighborhood.

Specimens of Eagles are also sometimes seen passing over the country. On the 23d of January past I observed a large individual of the White-headed Eagle a few miles north of the town. When first noticed it was soaring away towards the northwest, but it gradually curved around and disappeared in a southward direction. With this exception I have not observed one of these birds in this section for several years past, though occasionally the press reports specimens being shot, or otherwise captured in various parts of the province. On the 23d of February a pair of Shore Larks—the first of our spring birds—were observed. Since then they have become quite numerous in the streets and on the

roads in the vicinity of the town. On the 28th of the same month the notes of the Red-shouldered Hawk were heard, and on the 3d of March a Crow was first seen. Since then many others have been noticed. On the 28th the first Robin was seen, and the month closed without any other of our spring birds making their appearance.

WM. L. KELLS,

Listowel, Ont.

Collecting on "Snipe" Creek.

On the afternoon of April 12th I started on a collecting trip on "Snipe" creek, about two miles distant. I had the pleasure of seeing more rare bird life in short a time than ever before. I reached the timber by 1 o'clock and the first thing that called my attention, was a hole about ten feet up in a dead oak stump, thinking it may contain the nest of the Little Screech Owl, I scrambled up, looked in the cavity, but nothing met my eyes save a few fragments of egg-shells, perhaps carried there by squirrels. I started my course up the creek and the next that crossed my path was a Crow's nest in a Red Elm tree, some thirty-five feet from the ground, after climbing up found it contained two eggs, these I left for a set, and I then started back again on the other side of the stream. After walking along narrow paths, climbing banks and working my way on through bush and tangled undergrowth, I came upon my second Crow's nest, this contained a set of five eggs; not far from this in an oak tree, I took another set of Crow's eggs. I then walked some over a half mile when I run upon a Great Blue Herony. The three nests were all placed in a tall cotton-wood tree, seventy-five feet from the ground, the Herons were on their nests at the time, but left when I was yet a good distance. The tree had no limbs for forty feet, making it an impossibility for a collector to get their eggs. While trying to devise a plan to reach the nests, I chanced to look up the creek when I saw a large bird leave its nest, high up in an elm, this was supposed to be a Hawk

I climbed up about fifteen feet in the main fork, when the distance from where I stood was too far for me, not knowing what to do, I happened to think of the chisel and hammer that were in my pocket. I applied the use of these, cut a foot-hold in the body of the tree and soon was within a few feet of the nest. No sooner did I look over the edge of the nest, than two young Great Horned Owls flew to the opposite side of the stream while the third one sat still, not willing to leave, with ruffled feathers and out-spread wings he offered fight, but soon left him hanging by his claws on the outer limbs of the tree. In the nest was the body of a Grebe, which the young owls had not been able to devour.

Again I was on my road, after walking through thick growths of trees, I at last reached the road, this I followed, it led me to an open field where I could see down the creek for half a mile, when I spied a nest, darkly outlined against the distant hills, this I started for and was soon making my way through a large patch of hazel bush, when at some distance a Red-tailed Hawk flew out from the nest. The nest was placed in a black walnut tree, about forty feet from the ground; by the aid of a sapling that grew up the side of the walnut tree, I reached the nest, it was but slightly hollowed and contained three eggs, unlike the set of three that I had taken but a few days before, but very near pure white with the exception of a few reddish dots around the larger end, and incubation was far advanced. I packed them safely first in a collecting box and climbed down. I brought them safely to the ground and started on.

The sun was fast working its downward course, warning me that it was time to go home. I did not waste any more time in looking about, knowing the long distance I had to go required time. I reached home at dusk, with sore and bleeding wrists, tired but yet pleased with my afternoon's collecting.

G. F. B.

Beattie, Kansas.

From Pennsylvania.

I have been taking the *YOUNG OOLOGIST* since March, 1885, and like it very much. The May number is very interesting and of great help to amateur ornithologists. I think a law putting a reward on the head of the English Sparrow, the only solution of the mystery, but we can do much towards keeping the pests down, by killing the old birds, destroying nests, etc.

May 17, 1884, took a clutch of eight Rough-winged Swallows' eggs, and on June 3 a clutch containing six. Both sets were fresh. The two nests were placed about three feet from each other, in cavities of their own making, in a sand bank, where a road had been cut through. It was over one hundred yards to water. I caught the female on the second nest and held her in my hand until I finished examining her.

May 28, 1882, and June 3, 1884, found the Cowbird's egg in the nest of the Orchard Oriole.

In the spring of 1884 found the nest of the Purple Grackle in an old pear tree, in a hole excavated by a Flicker, containing four large young.

U. G. G.,
Lancaster, Pa.

Kingbirds Using Nests of Other Birds.

About two years ago a pair of Blackbirds made a nest in an oak tree near our house. I watched them and when they had laid their eggs I climbed up and took two; there were six eggs in the nest. The birds went on sitting as though nothing had happened, and hatched out the remaining four. After the Blackbirds had left the nest I noticed some Kingbirds going to the same nest. I watched them for a few days and then concluded that they had appropriated it for their own use; so I climbed up, and sure enough there were four eggs. They had put feathers and straw in it and fixed it all up new. I would like to know if this is a common habit of the Kingbird.

E. G. M.,
San Ramon, Cal.

THE YOUNG OÖLOGIST

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— BY —

FRANK H. LATTIN, ALBION, N. Y.

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JOTTINGS.

SPECIAL NOTICE.—We have moved our mail business to Albion, N. Y., 3 miles from Gaines, and henceforth all communications should be addressed us at that place.

We have a fine second-hand copy of *Chen's Key*, First edition, bound in morocco. We will forward this copy prepaid to the first person sending us \$5.00.

Davies' Egg Check List is coming into greater demand daily. Friend D. has already disposed of the first edition. We have about one hundred copies left. Order if you want one. The second edition will be changed in make-up, &c.

We have in press a large illustrated catalogue of "everything." We intended to run this out before the June Y. O., but finding we could not, have been obliged to run in the Y. O. a little late.

Owing to the fact that we are now offering the Y. O. for eighty cents per year, we will send our friends, who have so kindly sent us \$1.00, twenty-five cents worth of anything we advertise.

EXCHANGE.—We cannot take specimens in pay for THE YOUNG OÖLOGIST, or for supplies of any kind. In the future we cannot make exchanges unless especially advantageous to ourselves. Small exchanges amounting to less than \$5.00 are not solicited.

We are bound to obtain 500 new subscribers within the next thirty days, and to help obtain this number we will give THE YOUNG OÖLOGIST one year free to every person sending us an order amounting to \$2.00 for Bird's Eggs at regular prices, or \$3.00 for anything we offer for sale.

One of our most pleasant surprises during the past month was the receipt of Davis & Baker's New Directory. The boys put their shoulders to the wheel and have made it a big success. Several collectors have already written us saying it's worth three times the low price they paid for the same.

Mr. C. H. Wilder of Wayland, N. Y., is an enthusiastic student of reptiles—especially snakes. Our readers having any notes or observations in that line will please forward to him; he will doubtless arrange them in shape for THE YOUNG OÖLOGIST.

"Thou shalt not steal" says the Book of Books. The following letter is self explanatory. In the future we trust our friends will be *honest* enough when sending us *copied* articles to state plainly the writer and the source from whence obtained.

F. H. Lattin:

DEAR SIR:—I send by this mail a copy of the *Young Scientist* of date April, 1883. By turning to page 116 you will find a paper entitled "Our Birds." Will you please compare with "Study of Birds" in the March YOUNG OÖLOGIST? I will only say that *the writers are not identical*, and will leave you to draw the inference.

Sincerely,

C. H. WILDER,

Wayland, N. Y.

THE YOUNG OÖLOGIST, THIRTY-TWO PAGES MONTHLY, AT EIGHTY CENTS PER YEAR.—Our friends during the past year have made our little monthly in more than one sense of the word a success, and we are certain that the larger our subscription list the more interesting and more valuable we can make our monthly. Our subscription list now outnumbers that of any two other magazines devoted to our hobby; but we are not satisfied, and during the next month wish to double the number of names. Will our friends help us? We are willing and will do our share. During the next thirty days, until July 10th, we will send THE YOUNG OÖLOGIST one year for EIGHTY CENTS. Send in your subscriptions and renewals at once. We are bound, during the next thirty days, to add 500 names to our roll; if we do, THE YOUNG OÖLOGIST can and will be published in the future at eighty cents per year, making THE YOUNG OÖLOGIST one of the lowest priced magazines published. Remit 80 cents at once. Tell your friends and show them a copy of THE YOUNG OÖLOGIST.

IDENTIFICATION.—During the past few years we have cheerfully attempted to identify all specimens our friends have sent us, and this without remuneration; but owing to the fact that we are now receiving packages by the dozen for this purpose, and that our time is more than occupied with our regular business, in the future we shall be obliged to charge our friends in addition to return postage the following nominal rates:

Single or first specimens	10 cents.
Second to tenth	3 " each.
Eleventh specimen and over,	2 " "

The above rates for identifying specimens we consider very reasonable. We have spent several years in handling and studying specimens of various kinds, and have on hand a very large stock with which comparisons can be made. We also have the leading works to use as reference. The advantage of having specimens properly identified is invaluable to collectors.

A few days since we received a card from our express agent reading as follows:

DEAR SIR:—Recognizing the great inconvenience to the public heretofore attending the transmission of small sums of money, the American Express Company has organized and put in operation a Money Order System, through which it offers Money Orders, that

"Are absolutely safe against loss by theft or otherwise."

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Believing a trial sufficient to convince you of the superiority of this system, we would respectfully ask that you make your remittances, and that you request remittances be made to you (when possible) by American Express Co. Money Orders.

This is one of the best and safest methods of remitting money, and our patrons having an office of either the AMERICAN or UNITED STATES EXPRESS CO., can use these money orders, payable at Albion, N. Y., when sending money to us.

THE KNIGHTS OF AUDUBON is promising to be a great success. Owing to a slight misunderstanding between the publishers of the YOUNG OÖLOGIST and Chief Secretary Curtis's reports come to late for publication this month. The following is a circular the Chief Secretary is sending the members.

Painted Post, May 20th, 1885.

MY DEAR SIR:—

Thinking that perhaps you do not fully understand the method of sending reports to me, I will explain: Every member not excepting officers, is required to hand or send to the Corresponding Secretary, on the first of each month, a report of authentic notes and observations gathered during the preceeding month, written on one side of single sheet note paper, not

to exceed three pages, folded once, and signed, giving Town, County and State, in full.

These will then be forwarded to me, and from them I select the spiciest and most interesting for publication. Let them be concise and to the point, with no attempt to expand by use of unnecessary words.

Hoping to receive the reports June 1st, I remain,

Fraternally,

JOSE R. CURTIS,

Chief Secretary.

From Wisconsin.

I am observer at station fifty-three, Professor W. W. Cooke, Moorhead, Minn., superintendent. I enclose a few notes of arrivals to fill out some vacant corner.

This has been a cold backward spring and some of the little birds have had a hard time of it, but the majority of them have made their appearance at last, and the air is filled with their songs.

April 1. A flock of about a dozen robins lighted on a tree near the house, and after resting a few minutes continued their journey towards the north.

A number of Hawks, single in pairs, sailing towards the north.

April 2. Black Snowbird and Fox-colored Sparrow, Wood Duck, Mallard.

4. Mourning Dove.

5. Meadow Larks, singing. One pair of Chipping Sparrows, Kingfisher; heard a few faint croaks from the frogs; found a stupid Mud Turtle and Water Snake, they both seemed to have just crawled out of the mud.

6. Purple Grackle, Chipmunk, Grass Finch.

9. Redpoll Linnet, last seen.

14. White-throated Sparrow, Am. Bittern, Osprey sent in from Wabashaw.

16. Pair of Blue Jays, commenced gathering Plum twigs for nest. White Rumped Shrike.

18. Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet.

19. Bees commenced carrying in loads of pollen.

50. Yellow Shafted Flicker. Yellow-rumped Warbler, Coot.

21. Water Thrush, quite common and quite sharp when you want to shoot them. First toad.

Chewink, Whipperwill, Brown Thrush, the last of the Snow birds and Fox-tailed Sparrow, that gives them a stay here of about three weeks.

28. Hermit Thrush.

29. Purple Martin, Bank Swallow.

30. Had an old "resident" of an Am. Bittern brought in, he had a pickerel in his throat eight inches long by the rule, besides some small fry and weeds, no wonder they make a splashing in the water when they fly up.

May 2. A man brought in two Double-crested Cormorants, which he had killed at one shot as they were sitting on an old stump.

5. Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Killdeer.

6. Storm of rain and snow, with falling temperature. One of the merchants in town caught a little Yellow-breasted Warbler that was cold and hungry, and took it into the store and fed it on some pieces of meat, but it got lost behind some of the boxes the next day.

7. Twenty-eight degrees at 7 A. M., ground covered with snow, froze one-half inch last night, snow squalls all day. I went out in the morning and found the little birds all ruffled up and hunting all over the ground and everywhere for something to eat. Shot five Golden-Crowned Thrushes, all males; two Hermit Thrushes and about a dozen Black-and-white Creepers, Yellow-rumps, and some not yet identified. The Black-and-White Creepers seemed to suffer the most with the cold and hunger; had several brought in that were found dead. Found my first set of four Blue Jay's eggs.

8. Wilson's Thrush. Spotted Sandpiper, Oriole, Barn Swallow, found dead in a barn; Bank Swallow and Striped Creeper found dead; Black-throated War-

bler; set of four Pewee's eggs and a Bat, and that ends the list for the present.

E. L. B.
Durand, Wis.

The following is a description of a Warbler: Could you please identify it from the poor description given? Length, five inches, extent, 7.75; Tarsus' dark flesh color. Toes, three inches front, one behind; bill black, rather stout for warbler; breast, abdomen, under tail coverts, white; throat and sides of head black; tail dark brown, two white tail feathers seen in flying. Beak and head dark blue; primaries and secondaries brown, secondaries edged with blue; tertiaries mostly blue; wings longer than tail; rectal bristles very indistinct, and not reaching beyond nostrils; tarsus longer than longest toe.

Saw an English Sparrow's nest in the fork of a large tree in this city. It was rather a bulky affair and displayed no neatness in form or construction. Think it is rather unusual for them to build in trees.

I hear that the Red Crossbill is rare about Durand. Hear that it is probably the commonest migrant in certain places. They feed on hops near a brewery and, as they have not left yet, they will probably breed. The earliest date was March 22d, when several flocks were seen. A number of boys caught them under a bird-cage on the end of a long pole, showing how tame they were. I caught three and kept them alive. They act very much like a parrot in confinement using their bill in climbing. They ate bird seed, apple and pine cone seeds. Here are a few more arrivals:

March 22. Am. Gold Finches, Pine Finches, Robin, Cedar birds.

March 28. Blue birds.

March 30. Song Sparrow.

March 31. Snow birds (Junco) Meadow larks.

April 1. Crow Blackbird, Purple Martin.

April 4. White-bellied Swallow, House Wren.

April 23. Virginia Rail. Seen in the city on the street.

April 22. Phoebe bird.

April 30. Black-and-white Creeper.

May 5. A bird wave arrived consisting of warblers. Among them were several like the one described above, and several black-and-white creepers.

May 6. Towhee buntings.

C. A. K.
Milwaukee.

Mourning Dove; Burrowing Owl.

The Mourning Dove has its home in many parts of our country. It is a familiar bird to almost every person in Southern California.

They generally stay in flocks, or in pairs. I have seen flocks of them in the fields about here, numbering nearly one hundred. Sometime they are very tame; while other times they will not allow a person to come very near them.

The nests, which are frail affairs, are composed of dried grasses or roots. The eggs are two in number and white, about the size of the common pigeon's egg. It is a wonder why the eggs do not roll off the nest, which is not hollowed out.

I have found three eggs in the same nest several times, and once I found a nest within one foot of another bird's; the Dove nest was under the other, on the ground.

The latest nest I found was on September 15th, 1884, and last Monday (March 29th,) I found a nest containing one dove not quite all feathered. These birds remain with us during the winter. The nests here may be found from April to September.

THE BURROWING OWL, OR COQUIMBO.

This species of owls may be seen sitting on the brink of their burrows in the evening. On the appearance of an enemy they will take a farewell look at it, and hurry down their burrows, or fly a short distance, alight, and then stare at the object of disturbance. These owls may be seen from the middle of March to the latter part of autumn. They live in deserted squirrel holes, etc. The nest is sometimes made with a few grasses, but the droppings of

animals is the chief substance of its structure. The nest is generally placed at the very end of the burrow. The eggs are four to nine in number.

I have found snakes and black spiders, and once I found a large tarantula in their holes.

Once, to my surprise, I was digging in a hole after the nest, and got about to the end, when I saw something gray reaching in my hand; I found something very different from an owl, as instead of feathers it had fur. I did not know what it was at first, but reaching in my hand I happened to catch it by the leg and pulled it out. It proved to be a fine *Cotton-tail*. I soon reached the end of the hole and found five fat young owls and the parent at the far end. The nest of this owl may be found by the manure collected at the entrance to the burrow.

H. C. LILLIE,

Pleasures of a Florida Trip.

As I have a few moments to spare, I thought I would tell you a little of my adventures in collecting skins of birds in Southern Florida. In the winter of '83, just when the rush of trade was over, a friend of mine, (Dr. Small) who is now at Los Angeles, Cal., says to me, "Let's go to Florida for a few weeks, for some fun," so I said yes and we started—this was my third trip to Florida, but his first. We bought tickets for Enterprise, and went by steamer to Savannah and from there to Jacksonville by cars, and then by the Steamer John Sylvester up the St. John river to Enterprise. Let me tell all collectors to keep away from hotels if they wish to have money in their pockets. Having had a taste of this once, it was a good lesson for me; we took our two large trunks in which was all our stuff and guns, and one folding canoe and a small tent; we hired a mule for \$5 a week, and went about, I should think sixty miles into the interior. We pitched our tent on the bank of a small river called Snake Creek, and well it deserved its name, for it was full of water Adders of all kinds.

About a week or ten days after we had been there, a camping party of men from New York came and pitched about a mile above us. They were up there for fishing more than gunning. One night when my Pard went off to get some owls, which he had heard the night before, these three men came up to our tent to pass away the evening, we were just commencing to enjoy a good social game when in came my Pard, mad as a wild bull, and said I was a nice kind of a man to leave a log in front of the door. I told him I did not, so we all went to see, and low and behold there was a large Alligator just crawling away. I jumped into the tent and grabbed my forty-four Winchester rifle, but was just in time to see him go into the stream; but we killed nine on that very same river before we left. Now people talk about snakes in Florida. Let me tell my young friends that snakes will not trouble you if you will not trouble them, for here is an instance: One day I was after a flock of Paroquets, and going on to a small field of wild rice, and looking to one side of me I saw a round ball as I thought, and went to go over to it, but was surprised to find it a large Rattle-snake, (you bet I made tracks out of its reach), and it did not notice me more than to raise its head. I got my senses pretty quick and let her have two barrels of No. 12 shot of my faithful Hammerless. When we skinned the snake we found twenty-one eggs in her. She had twenty-six rattles, and is the finest snake I ever saw. We left soon after and went home. We collected in all over 400 eggs, and over 1,100 skins of various species. I will tell you more next time.

J. T. JONES.

Flicker.

Editor:—The Yellow-shafted Flicker is known in this locality as Yellow Hammer. One is building in a maple in the center of our little city has hollowed its nest out of the growing tree. Until lately they seemed to be rather scarce, but now their well-known cry is heard in nearly every direction. One woke us up the other night by drumming on the shingles, and kept us awake for nearly half an hour.

Yours, A. S. A., Osceola, Iowa.

The Horned Lark.

A few notes on this bird from Kansas may be of interest to the readers of the *YOUNG OÖLOGIST*.

The Horned Lark is quite plentiful with us during the winter months, together with the Snow Bunting, visit the barn-yards in diligent search for food.

At times when the ground is covered with December's white sheet they may be seen in flocks searching the bare places for food, all the time smaller flocks coming from other places alight, while others are flying on, uttering all the while a low twittering.

The Horned Lark is our first songster of the spring, taking precedence even of the Blue-bird; from the top of some stake or fence post they may be heard singing.

Noticing that their number in the summer months are nothing to compare with the great numbers seen at all times in the winter, I, for the past season, have been a little doubtful that but few remain here in the summer season and that the greater part go north to breed. I am now fully convinced that but few remain here to breed.

They may be found on prairie lands, where herds of cattle have been pastured and grazed the grass close to the ground. As a rule they never are to be found where the old grass is still standing, perhaps their instincts teach them not to nest there for fear it will get run over by prairie fires.

Of the two nests that came under my observation in the past two seasons, both were on the south slope of a hill.

One nest was found while riding along a well traveled road (on one of the last days of March). I noticed a Horned Lark busily engaged in collecting nesting materials which she found in the road. I turned my horse at a safe distance, so as not to frighten the bird, and waited to see where she was going with her load. I had not long to wait till she was ready to fly to her nest. I rode to the spot where I saw her alight. The bird flew just before I reached the place. The nest was on the south side

of a hill and on the side of a grass tuft, thus breaking the cold winds from the north and getting the warmth of the sun from the south. A hollow was scooped close up to the tuft, two inches deep, well filled up around the edge of the cavity, to prevent water from running in, and lined with fine grass and horse hair.

It being four miles from home, I did not return till I thought it due time for the full set. In a week I again visited the nest, finding no eggs. I dismounted and examined it, and found small fragments of shells and moisture at the bottom of the nest. I have since thought that some hungry dog devoured the eggs and left me minus.

G. F. BREXINGER,

Beattie, Kas.

Homes of the Sand Martin and Toucan.

Thinking that perhaps a few words about birds and their homes might interest the readers of the *YOUNG OÖLOGIST*, I will give the following short sketches:

The Sand Martin, so common in England, is an excellent example. Few would suppose that the tiny bill of this pretty little bird was capable of boring tunnels into sand stone. The Sand Martin, however, prefers an easy task, when that is possible, and will always avail itself a locality where the soil is loose and yet where the sides of the burrows will not collapse. Having fixed upon a suitable spot, it commences to work in a circular direction, using its legs as a pivot, and by dint of turning round and round, and pecking away as it proceeds, soon chips out a tolerably circular hole. After the bird has lived for some time in the tunnel, the shape of the entrance is much damaged by the incessant passing to and fro of its inmates; but, while the burrow is still new and untenanted, its form is almost cylindrical. In all cases the tunnel slopes gently upward, so as to prevent the lodgment of rain. At the farthest extremity of the burrow, which is always rather larger than the shaft, is placed the nest, a very simple structure,

upon which are laid the eggs, which are very small and of a delicate pinky whiteness.

Few foes can injure the Sand Martin during incubation, because of the difficulty of gaining admission to the nest. Man is, perhaps, its worst enemy, for there is a mixture of adventure and danger in taking the eggs, which is irresistible to the British schoolboy; to climb up a perpendicular rock, to cling with one hand, while the other is thrust into the burrow, and to know that a chance slip will certainly snap the invading arms like a pipe stem, is a combination of joys which no well conditioned boy can withstand.

The Toucan is remarkable for its enormous bill, which is decorated with brilliant tints of orange and black, scarlet and yellow, or red and green, varying in different species. Whether this huge bill is the tool with which it excavates its burrow, is uncertain. It is said, however, that the young of the Toucan, being liable to the attacks of monkeys and birds of prey, whenever the parent bird is alarmed, all she has to do is to poke her beak out of the aperture leading to her nest; the assailant seeing so huge a bill, fancies an animal of corresponding size and hastily flees.

CHAS. MILLER, JR.

Queer Nesting Sites

Editor Young Oölogist:

I have taken the *YOUNG OÖLOGIST* since its commencement in May, 1884, and I value it very highly.

Wishing to contribute my share, I send following:

"The story is that a coal vessel from Newcastle put into Navin, in Scotland, and while there two Sparrows were often seen to alight on the top of the mast.

"The crew thought nothing of this, as Sparrows are a common sight everywhere. But after putting to sea again these same Sparrows were seen following the vessel, and having reached it they took up their old post on the mast. Crumbs of bread were scattered on the deck to entice the

Sparrows down, and they came to the feast fast enough, ate heartily and then returned to their favorite post on the mast-head.

"They soon learned to come down for crumbs as a matter of course.

"When the vessel reached port a nest containing four young was found on the mast-head.

"It was carefully taken down and placed in a ruined house on the bank of the river, and a gentleman who had watched the subsequent actions of the birds, says that they reared the brood as though nothing had happened."

I give one or two more incidents further illustrating the queer places sometimes chosen by the English Sparrows for nest-building purposes.

In the right hand of a statue of Daniel Webster in Central Park, New York, a Sparrow built her nest last year (1884).

In the mouth of the stone lion in Charing Cross, England, Sparrows regularly build their nests.

A bronze statue (which was, of course, hollow), which stood in one of our cities, was taken down recently and the inside was found to have been taken possession of by Sparrows and Swallows, and every "nook and cranny" contained a nest.

The statue represented Gen. Jackson on horseback and contained nearly fifty nests.

I have a Natural History scrap-book from which I get a great many incidents of bird life, which not infrequently prove very useful.

Wishing success to the *YOUNG OÖLOGIST*,
I remain Yours Respt.,

W. V. O.
Providence, R. I.

A Brave Bird.

While a party of ladies were chatting on a piazza at Clifton, New York, one pleasant afternoon last month, their attention was attracted by the swift descent of a sparrow-hawk. A moment later the pirate of the air was seen soaring upward with a poor little chippy bird in his talons. The ladies were not the only spectators of the

tragic incident. No sooner did a robin, which had been putting the finishing touches to her nest, in a tree near by, see the distress of the chippy, than she took wing, and darted in pursuit of the hawk. Overtaking the robber, the robin at once attacked him with much courage. She dealt blow after blow with her beak on the hawk's body, each blow being followed by the scattering of a tuft of feathers plucked from the plumage of the marauding hawk. That party to the battle in mid-air seemed dazed at first, and rose straight upward, the robin following. Then the hawk swooped downward, and turned abruptly in another direction. Still the plucky robin kept close, and at every stroke of her beak the hawk uttered a cry of pain. Thus the combat was continued in a narrow circle near the piazza for more than a minute. The spectators were much excited. They clapped their hands and tried to encourage the robin as much as possible, and they were well pleased, indeed, when the hawk dropped his prey and fled afar. The chippy fell like a plummet toward the ground. It seemed as though it had escaped from the hawk only to be dashed to death on the earth, when suddenly it found its wings, and, fluttering for an instant, gained a safe poise, and flew to the robin's tree. Meantime the robin had returned to her nest, where she resumed her work as though nothing had happened to mar the serenity of the peaceful afternoon.—*E.c.*

♦♦♦

Familiarity of the Chickadee

I thought that the readers of the *YOUNG OÖLOGIST* might like to hear an account of the familiarity of the Black-capped Chickadee, which I think is unsurpassed. While chopping wood, nearly a year ago, in a sugar orchard, the Chickadees were very plenty and appeared quite tame for food, and keeping up an incessant chattering. They seemed so tame that I thought I would see how near they would approach, so I stood perfectly still and in less than five minutes one was standing on one of my feet, peering up into my face as if try-

ing to determine what sort of an animal I was. He seemed satisfied that I was harmless. After this investigation and gaining courage he flew to a small branch about two feet from my head, thence he hopped on my shoulder. He surveyed me in a very serious manner and very deliberately too, so deliberately in fact, that I began to get tired, and I moving slightly, he flew to a neighboring tree and began to scold, which collected a flock, every individual of which seemed to think that he was called upon to assist in the scolding. I hope never again to receive such a scolding as I received from those birds. If any of the readers of the *YOUNG OÖLOGIST* ever witnessed any such incident, I should like to hear from them. Hoping, yet hardly expecting, that this article will be favorably received, I remain

Yours truly,

FRED B. SPAULDING,
Lancaster, N. H.

♦♦♦

Queries.

What is Southern breeding for American Goldfinch and for the Chewink or "Joree," as we say, and which seems to express his song?

Who has seen the Great Northern Shrike as far South as 35 degrees?

J. T. P.,
Rising Fawn, Ga.

MAY 5, 1885.—I found a set of six Robin eggs in a railroad bridge. To-day I found a Blue-bird's nest in a hole in a tree containing four Blue-birds and two Cow-birds.

F. L., Ashland, Ohio.

NORTH TURNER BRIDGE, May 10, 1885.

Mr. F. H. Lattin :—I would like to say a word in regard to Friend Singley's question in the *YOUNG OÖLOGIST* about the Yellow-billed Cuckoo laying in other birds' nests. Last summer while out collecting I found a Cedar-bird's nest in an elm tree up about fifteen feet from the ground. On climbing up I found five Cedar-bird's eggs and one egg of the Yellow-billed Cuckoo. Let us hear from other collectors on the subject.

S. J. O.,
North Turner Bridge, Me.

Pigmy Nuthatch.

This diminutive species, according to the specification to *Studer*, Davis' Check List, etc., breeds only on the Pacific Coast. But this season while in company with Mr. George Noble, I had the good fortune to find them. They seem to be quite numerous, both in Georgia and South Carolina, as I found them in both states this season. They are among our earliest breeders, commencing to build the latter part of March. The first nest I found was on the 12th of April, situated in a dead Pine tree, about fifteen feet high, which contained young, my second was on the same day in a live pine tree, about fifteen feet high, which also contained young. I did not go up to either of the nests as I knew it would be useless, as I saw the parent birds feeding the young—both these nests were found in Georgia. My third nest was found on the 19th of April, in Beauford County, South Carolina, the nest was situated in a pine stump, four feet from the ground, which contained five young about one week old. My fourth nest I found on the 20th, in a pine stump, six feet from the ground, which contained four eggs, but incubation was so far advanced I was unable to save them, whether they rear more than one brood during the season, I am at present unable to say. There can be no doubt about the identification as the male birds were shot, and are now in the possession of Mr. George Noble, a taxidermist of this place.

T. D. PERRY,
Sarn, Ga.

An Explanation Wanted.

Editor of The Young Oologist:

In collecting this spring, I have met with quite an interesting experience.

I found a robin's nest on the 2nd inst., containing three eggs. I took the eggs but afterwards replaced them as I did not want so small a set. On the 4th I again visited the nest expecting to find a full set. The eggs were gone, and as there

were no foot prints but mine visible, I concluded some other birds had destroyed them. But on the 13th I found another robin's nest containing three eggs. One of them was fast losing its identity as an egg and was trying hard to become a robin. The nest No. 2 was certainly not built on the 2nd, as I had carefully looked for one in that tree on that day. Now I don't believe there is any robin smart enough to build a nest on the 3d, lay three eggs and have one hatched by the 13th of May. So I concluded that the birds to out-wit me, constructed another nest and carried them thither: fully 200 yards.

Have you seen anything similar? "I know what I have seen."

Yours,
D. B. P.
Oberlin, O

Ferruginous Rough Leg.

Editor Young Oologist:

While spending a few days at the sheep rancho on Lone Tree Creek I obtained a few notes which I thought would be of interest to the readers of the *Young Oologist*. They are concerning the Ferruginous Rough Leg: or, California Squirrel Hawk. When we located the rancho on the creek we noticed in a cotton-wood tree, about 100 yards from the tent, an immense nest, and in a few days a large pair of these hawks took possession. They did not mind our presence at all, and with the aid of a good field glass I watched the pair pretty closely. At first the nest was lined with immense tufts of dry grass, root and all. And the first egg was laid on Monday, April 13. The male bird never visited the nest after this, but would sit out upon the prairie catching gophers, etc., which were turned over to the female. On Tuesday I went up again while they were away, and there were three or four gopher-heads and tails, but no more eggs. The first one very much resembled a Fish Hawk's egg, having a light blue back-ground with rich rufus, brown and chocolate markings blotched all over 2.50x1.95. The second egg was not laid until

Wednesday afternoon, and this was considerably lighter, less marked than the first. What blotches there were were gathered around the smaller end and ran back in long lines.

The birds never made any attempts to drive me off while I was up the tree and I waited until Monday, the 20th, for another egg, but thinking that the set was complete and wishing to obtain fresh eggs, I took the set on the afternoon of the 20th.

I thought at first that the bird was a Fish-Hawk, so I shot the female in order to make sure. In the birds fall a large egg about to be laid was broken, the shell of which was clear sky-blue, and there were ten or twelve distinct eggs of all sizes in the hawk, three of them quite large. The nest was composed of dry limbs and sticks, some as large as broom-sticks. It was three feet in diameter and about two feet deep situated only twelve feet from the ground. Length of bird-wings, 18.50; tail, 10; length, 24; spread, 60.

F. M. DILLE.

Greeley Col., April 25, 1885.

◆◆◆ Sparrows; A Plucky Hen.

A Philadelphia man seems to have found a method of getting rid of the "Hoodlum." He was annoyed very much by the English Sparrows in the ivy along the walls of his house. A bright idea struck him, and he went to the store, procured a pound of pepper, raised one of his garrett windows and scattered the pepper among the ivy. The effect was instantaneous, for the sparrows quitted that ivy in double quick, and according to latest accounts have not returned yet.

That is one way of getting rid of them.

The following is an extract from one of our county papers, and I send it to you, hoping it may prove interesting:

"Four miles from Aiken, S. C., at the home of Mr. T. C. Harker, recently a matronly hen was cheerily clucking to her downy brood and industriously scratching for their matutinal meal when there appeared in the sky overhead a huge hawk

whirling in concentric circles. A sharp note of warning from the patriarchal cock hurried the feeding fowls to places of concealment, and, followed by the sharp cluck of the old hen, sent the infant spring chickens scurrying beneath the protecting wings of their mother. And none too soon came the alarm. The next instant there was a whirring sound in the air, and, with wings close into his body, coming head foremost like a shot from a cannon, the hawk landed among the panic-stricken brood. But he had reckoned without his host. The old hen had sand in her gizzard and was true blue. With her wings extended and the feathers on her neck standing apart, she met the onslaught of the bird of prey. No sooner had he touched the ground than she was upon him. The conflict, which was witnessed by several parties, was as brief as it was brilliant, and before succor could reach the plucky little hen she had stretched the feathered pirate lifeless at her feet. The hawk measured just four feet from tip to tip, and was carried to Aiken and exhibited. A lucky blow from the beak of the hen entered the eye and penetrated his brain.

H. K. L., Landis Valley, Pa.

◆◆◆ They Had Reason.

Editor Young Oologist: A line in the letter of your correspondent H. S., on page 149 of your March number, attracts my attention. "The people here (St. Clair Flats) called it (an apparently hybrid duck shot by him) a *Breuer*." It is a curious fact that they have genuine high ornithological warranty for the name. On page 277 of Audubon's Synopsis, 1839, will be found a description of "*Anas Breueri*:" "Very nearly allied to the Mallard; one specimen procured in Louisiana." This has long ago been pronounced not a good species, and Dr. Coues says it was no doubt a hybrid Mallard, like the bird above. But how came the Michiganders to have the name *in common use*?

F. C. B.

Framingham, Mass.

From Shelter Island.

We have had a week of pleasant weather, and the birds are becoming abundant. Have noted the following arrivals:

March 5. Redwinged Black-birds.

March 7. Crow Black birds.

March 11. Robins.

March 17. Took a Fish Crow. Rare so far north.

March 21. Kingfishers.

March 28. Field Sparrows and Cow Buntings.

March 31. The Wild Geese took advantage of a fair wind, and passed over in hundreds, on their northern journey. Ducks becoming more abundant.

April 3d. Fox-Sparrows arrived and heard the first Woodcocks.

April 6. Saw four White-bellied Swallows, sitting on a fence, apparently stupefied by the chilly weather.

April 14. Great Blue Herons.

April 18. Spotted Sandpapers and Purple Finches.

April 21. Common Crows and Jereech Owls laying.

April 23. Brown Thrushes and Barn Swallows.

April 24. Green Herons and Towhee Buntings.

I believe the birds migrate more slowly on the coast than inland, on account of the atmosphere being colder in the vicinity of large bodies of water.

Yours truly, W. W. W.

♦♦♦
From Kansas.

Editor Young Oologist:

DEAR SIR—Your correspondent, N. A. S. from York, Neb., is probably in error in regard to the nesting of Woodhouse's Jay in that state. Extreme variation in the eggs of the common Blue Jay is too common to base upon it the identity of the eggs. Especially is this true when the locality is outside the range of the bird to which the eggs are assigned.

He is also undoubtedly in error as to the time of arrival of the Black-throated

Bunting which he notes as occurring March 2. The Black-throated Bunting arrives about the last week of April or first week in May, and *never in flocks*. Its songs is the first evidence of their presence, for it is in full song when it reaches us. Your correspondent has, no doubt, mistaken the Harris Finch for this bird. Harris Finch arrives in flocks about March 1. It differs radically from the Black-throated Bunting, but resembles it in having a black throat-patch. It is a larger bird, keeps about hedges and brush heaps, and has a peculiar complaining song, from which circumstance, as well as on account of the black head and throat of the male, it is called the "Mourning Sparrow." The Black-throated Bunting keeps mostly to the open fields, and the male seems to sing throughout the day. There is no variation in its song, which is repeated at short intervals from the top of a weed or bush.

The "Moss bird" referred to is, no doubt, the Blue Gray Gnatcatcher.

Yours truly, D. E. L.

Manhattan, Kan., May 4, 1885.

♦♦♦ An Albino Crow.

While going down White River in Indiana about the first of December, 1884, when about seven miles below Freedom and one mile above Farmers, on the Indianapolis and Vincennes Railway in Indiana, I found a crow, in every respect like other crows only its feathers were white as snow, in a steel trap caught to its toe. I took the crow out and took it to Farmers, where I found a man by the name of Dolme, who stated that he had set the trap for the purpose of catching the white crow, which had been mated to a black crow and was raising its young every season in that locality. I delivered the crow to the man and he sold it to a doctor living at Freedom, by the name of Minich, who gave \$5 for it and sent it to his brother, who is a surgeon at the Surgical Institute in Indianapolis. Ask the editor of THE YOUNG OOLOGIST what he thinks of this and let me know.

Your cousin,

R. K. Y.,
Freedom Ind.

The above was forwarded us by Mr. E. Chandler, Eureka Springs, Ark.

Yellow Rail, Wood Frog, Jordan's Manual.

YELLOW RAIL (*Porzana northcarolinensis*)—Rathbun, in his "Birds of Central New York," catalogues this bird as follows: "Very rare. One taken September 20th, 1872.—*Gillbert*." The OÖLOGIST, Vol. 4, No. 5, p. 40, July, 1878, note the capture of a second. The third, of which I have known, was shot at the Canandaigua Lake, Ontario County, October 6, 1883. I believe that the rarity of the species is largely *apparent* and not *real*, as the habits of the species are not such as to expose it to sight.

WOOD FROG (*Rana temporaria sylvatica*).—I found this species very abundant near Wayland, Steuben County, N. Y., in the summer of 1884.

JORDAN'S MANUAL.—I must beg leave to differ with the opinion expressed in the YOUNG OÖLOGIST for March. The *Manual* only professes to be a key, and as such, I consider it unexcelled. I use it constantly for birds, reptiles and batrachians.

C. H. WILDER,
Wayland, N. Y.

Rose-Breasted Grosbeak.

(*Zamelodia ludoviciana*.)

This bird is very common in this locality, building its nest in all places suitable to its taste.

The male bird is about the size of a Wood Thrush; the upper parts are shiny black; the under parts are white; the tail and wings are marked with a broad band of white, similar to the Red-headed Woodpecker. The breast is marked with a triangular spot of rose-carmine; the bill is very large—half the size of its head,—tapering suddenly to a point.

The female is of a brownish cast, dotted with gray and black; under the wings is marked with pale yellow; is considerably larger than the male; she also has a large bill like the male. They sing sweetly, their song being a clear whistle; this is done in the thickest of the woods. They are pe-

culiar to hard-wood countries, seldom being found in other places.

On May 22d, 1884, while out egg-ing, I suddenly came upon the nest of a Grosbeak with the male bird sitting on it. The nest was in a slender sapling, about ten feet from the ground; it was composed of root-lets; I counted the eggs through the nest, this can most generally be done, owing to the frailness of structure. I climbed the tree and procured the eggs, which were three, about 1 in. by $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch, of a clear green spotted with olive brown, chiefly at the large end. I was anxious to secure the bird, as he was in perfect plumage, I whipped out my *sling-shot* and shot him in the wing, wounding him so badly to fly. When I went to pick him up, he grabbed me by the finger very hard, which instantly drew the scarlet. I tried to shake him off, but he hung like a *bull dog*, and did not release his hold until I squeezed him to death. The eggs are very hard to get from the nest, owing to the slimness of the trees in which they build.

BURTON MOFFETT,
Minneapolis, Minn.

Common Crow.

This bird, although very abundant, and breeding here in large quantities, the eggs are quite difficult to obtain, owing to the height and difficult trees they select for breeding. To do any collecting one must be accompanied by climbers and a good determination. On April 5th, 1885, while in company with three friends, I took my first set of eggs. We entered a thick woods, in which no sign of opening buds was to be seen, but plenty of oak trees with the dead leaves still clinging to them. It was in one of these the nest was placed, being only about twenty-two feet from the ground. The nest was near the edge of the woods. We cautiously approached, I leading, and were soon informed of the idea that it was inhabited, by the fact that the tail of the female was sticking out. Arrived at the foot of the tree, and I searched an appropriate missile, which was soon found in the

shape of a club. This was hurled, and like an arrow the startled bird left the nest, made one "caw," was joined by another crow, probably her mate, and seen no more that day. One of our number immediately took off his coat, vest and shoes, and was soon up, where he reported to the eager group below "three eggs." Two of these were placed in a small box, the other one in his mouth, and the nest was dropped to the ground, and collapsed in the operation. Another of our party climbed and secured the egg from the collector's mouth, when all three were safely brought to the ground and securely packed. I then took an account of the nest and wrote my data. The nest contained some queer things, among which was a spider's nest, some horse hair, and a bunch of cow's hair. We proceeded on our journey, and although traversing some ten miles of country and seeing many nests, we got no more eggs that day.

WARREN CARTER,

Wallingford, Pa.

Great Horned Owl.

A friend and myself started for a day's trip in the country for owls. When about five miles from town we reached a nest which was used by Red-tails a year ago. The hawks were back and flying over the nest with shrill screams. When about five hundred feet from the nest, I observed through my field glass the tufts or horns of an owl. When some three hundred feet from the place the male flew from a neighboring tree. The female refused to leave the nest, but stood up with ruffled feathers until I threw a snow-ball. She flew in the direction which her mate had taken, the snow then at that place was knee deep. After a hard climb I secured a nice set of two. Incubation well advanced. Proceeding on about two miles we came to a new nest which was not there the summer before. I saw nothing of Owls, but on the outside of the nest there were several Owls' feathers, which induced me to climb. On reaching the nest, I found one frozen egg, which proved to be that of a Great Horned

Owl. The nest had been deserted. Returning home a different route, we found a pair of Red-tails busily engaged in building their nest, which was nearly complete.

A few years ago a pair of these Owls built a nest directly over a large den of rattlesnakes. The snakes soon disappeared. I have known Red-tailed Hawks to kill snakes also. It looks to me that if it was not for these two species we would be overrun with snakes and gophers. Perhaps some of the readers can throw some light on this subject.

FRANK A. PATTON.

Lake City, Minn.

White Blue-Bird Eggs.

Editor Young Oologist :

As I see occasionally in your paper some items about Blue-birds' eggs being found found white instead of their natural color, I would like to ask whether this is a distinct kind of Blue-birds or not. There has been found here four sets of the Blue-birds' eggs. Three of the nests were found nearly at the same time, so I am sure that there are four pairs of the birds here that lay white eggs, if not more. Hoping to hear from you soon in regard to this, I remain
Yours Respt.

R. J. R., El Paso, Ill.

The Blue-bird that lays white eggs is not a different variety. Ed.

A Hard Time for Owls.

During the past winter I have skinned and mounted seventy-one Owls of different species. They were as follows:

Great-horned Owls.....	7
Barred Owls.....	18
Hawk Owls.....	41
Long-eared Owls.....	2
Little-horned Owl (Mottled).....	1
Flammulated Screech Owl.....	1
Richardson's Saw-whet Owl.....	1

I handled many other Barred and Hawk Owls which I should have liked to add to my list.
J. M., Quebec, Canada.

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No. 3, " " 15-100, " " " "	15
No. 4, " " 21-100, " " " "	20
No. 0, medium handle, 3.32 in. burr	20
No. 1, " " 4.32 " "	25
No. 2, " " 5.32 " "	35
No. 3, " " 6.32 " "	50
No. 4, " " 8.32 " "	75
No. 1, long handle, 3.32 in. burr	25
No. 2, " " 5.32 " "	35
No. 3, " " 6.32 " "	50
No. 4, " " 8.32 " "	75
No. 5, " " 12.32 " "	1 00
No. 6, " " 16.32 " "	1 50
No. 7, " " of improved form, 1-2 inch in diameter, cut coarse for thick-shelled eggs, or fine for thin-shelled	1 50

BLOW PIPES: No. 1, brass	15
" " No. 3, nickel-plated	35

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" " 4 " " "	55
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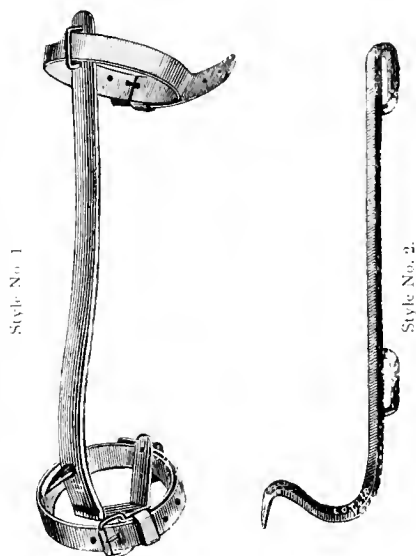
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Have just received your little treasure "Davie's Egg Check List" from my friend — and so much am I pleased with its contents after 3 hours perusal, that I cannot refrain from telling you direct how much I welcome this helpmeet in my studies and researches, in short, in a concise and thorough manner it supplies a long felt want. Add my name to the long list of admirers, which this charming little book must have made for you.—*Harry G. Parker, Chester, Pa.*

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